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'ARAFAT CHAIRS PALESTINIAN MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN191719 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Today Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, presided over an extended meeting of the Palestinian Military Council.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Abu Jihad and Abu Salih, members of the Fatah Central Committee and of the Al-'Asifah forces General Command, and by Brig Gen Abu al-Walid, chief of the joint forces' central operations.

Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting the discussions centered on recent developments and the current situation in the area.

'ARAFAT ATTACKS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE AGREEMENT

NC162007 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1640 GMT 16 Mar 79 NC

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at 16 March Beirut rally to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Kamal Junblatt, former leader of the Lebanese Socialist Party--recorded]

[Excerpts] We know that Carter and his two agents, As-Sadat and Begin, are now moving and ahead of them are the 6th and 7th Fleets with which they are trying to frighten us and to frighten this Arab area.

The comedy and the plot are now being repeated--the tripartite plot led by Carter. He has activated his agent who speaks Arabic, As-Sadat, and his other agent who speaks Hebrew, Begin. He is moving them in this area and is trying to frighten us. But, brothers, we must do what we have to do. This is the answer. The answer is coming again now from the joint forces which have been fighting from the moment that the President called Carter landed in the area and tried to dominate it, or, in other words, to put the area in his pocket. But I tell him that no one can put this area in his pocket [applause]. This area is volcanic.

It is true that he wants to put this area in his pocket because it is the area of oil, but he must know that next to the oil there are volcanos, masses, fighters, and brave and free men. [applause]

I say that if Carter wants to make an alliance in this area--an Israeli-U.S.-Egyptian alliance--I tell him that the time for alliances has passed.

The rejection, brothers, came yesterday when a 17-year-old girl named Rabi'ah was killed together with other brothers in the occupied territory. These are the timebombs on which they are betting. They think they can mobilize them for the autonomy. But they must understand that autonomy and all the alternatives to autonomy are rejected. Any American solution in the area is rejected. We hear people say that (?we are against) peace in the area. No. We reject the peace of the capitulationists; we reject the peace of the weak; we reject [words indistinct] Begin and Carter over our area. We want the peace of free and honorable men in the Arab area. There can be no other peace at all in the Arab area. Let everyone understand that this area will have only one will--the will Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf. [applause]

I defy Carter, Begin and Anwar as-Sadat to try to put this plot through. It will not pass.

Let everyone understand that the 7th Fleet, which is moving in the Sea of Oman at the gates of the gulf, will be confronted by the Palestinian fighter, the Lebanese fighter, the Syrian fighter. They must understand that every fighter in the Arab nation will confront it before our brothers in the gulf confront it.

No one can sell Jerusalem; no one can sell Jerusalem. As-Sadat can never buy a handful of Sinai sand in return for Jerusalem, for the Christian and Muslim holy places. No. One flag will be raised over Jerusalem--the flag of our Arab nation--whether they like it or not, sooner or later. [applause]

PNC CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES PLO-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

JN161948 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Mr Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council chairman, has praised His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stands and his majesty's desire to realize the Palestinian people's national rights. In a statement to the JNA correspondent in Damascus, Al-Fahum praised his majesty's insistence on achieving the Arab nation's aspirations and on securing Israel's complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Al-Fahum also praised Jordan's positive action in accordance with the Baghdad Arab summit conference resolutions. Al-Fahum referred to the coming visit of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Jordan and said: Given the extraordinary circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, there must be coordination and cooperation among the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the PLO and other Arab states, especially Syria and Iraq, at the highest level, if we are to secure our Arab nation's legitimate rights and adhere to Arab solidarity with the aim of acheving the Arab nation's aspirations. He said that As-Sadat's actions cannot be acceptable following his deviation from the Arab ranks and his agreement to a unilateral settlement with the Zionist enemy.

Mr al-Fahum said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat's visit to Jordan comes at a time of difficult Arab circumstances as a result of the Egyptian president's policy and his tampering with the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights. Al-Fahum recalled the Baghdad summit conference resolutions that stipulated the political boycott of Egypt and the imposition of economic sanctions against it. However, Al-Fahum added, this must not affect the interests of the Arab people of Egypt, who have always proved to be part of the Arab nation.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN190624 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar last night received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Comrade Laeksandr Soldatov. The radio correspondent has learned that the Soviet ambassador conveyed a message to Brother Abu 'Ammar from the Soviet leaders. The talks during the meeting centered on the latest developments in the Arab area.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAILS WEST BANK 'UPRISING'

JN181826 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1635 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of statement issued by PLO Executive Committee following its meeting in Damascus on 17 March]

[Excerpts] The PLO Executive Committee, as well as the Arab and Palestinian masses, followed with great admiration and pride the news of the glorious popular uprising by the masses of our heroic people in the occupied homeland in protest against Carter's conspiratorial visit to Cairo and occupied Jerusalem.

The uprising, which spread all over the occupied homeland and attained a high level of comprehensiveness and violence, was equal to the challenges and was a reply to the plot of the American-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance. The masses of the occupied regions, who came out to challenge the occupation forces' terrorism and bullets, have created new Palestinian and Arab days of glory. They have reaffirmed their death-defying courage in confronting the occupation forces and have demonstrated that unlimited sacrifice is one of the highest ideals of our brave and valiant Palestinian people. It is also an unalterable tradition and genuine heritage of our glorious Arab nation.

The uprising proves that the will of steadfastness is always stronger, that the word of the people in our region is superior and that the Arab nation shapes its destiny. The uprising also proves that our people are determined to repulse the plots of the American-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance regardless of the heavy sacrifices and challenges. It shows our people's determination to reject the Camp David capitulationist bargain, and to foil the self-rule plot and the schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The uprising proves to the Zionists and their masters in Washington that dragging As-Sadat's regime to capitulation does not mean imposing capitulation on the Arab nation. It proves that the attempts made to persuade our people in the occupied regions as well as the policy of creating new facts there will only be doomed to complete failure. Such attempts will only increase our masses' insistence on steadfastness, escalation of struggle, and consolidation by the Palestinian people within the political and military equation in our region.

Masses of our heroic people: The PLO Executive Committee under its chairman, brother Abu 'Ammar, pledges to the masses of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland that it will proceed with them along the path of struggle to achieve the aims for which our fathers and forefathers have struggled. It also calls on the masses in the occupied regions to close their ranks and increase their cohesion so as to escalate struggle until victory.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DELEGATION

JN200711 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Yesterday brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with the Arab People's Congress General Secretariat delegation headed by brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, the Arab People's Congress secretary general.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee secretary; and by 'Abd ar-Rahman (al-Khamisi), head of the Egyptian delegation to the Arab conference.

At the outset of the meeting, brother 'Umar al-Hamadi reviewed the Arab People's Congress General Secretariat's activities on the Arab and international levels. He also outlined future activities, particularly the various meetings scheduled to be held in Lisbon, Helsinki, Paris and Tripoli. In conclusion, brother 'Umar al-Hamidi stressed the Arab People's Congress' unlimited solidarity with the Arab people's struggle and with the Palestine question as well. He greeted brother Abu 'Ammar, leader of the Palestinian revolution, which stands firmly as a symbol of the Arab struggle.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then made a short speech in which he reviewed the current situation. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I am very happy to meet with you tonight. I was expecting you at noon today, but I learned that you were on a tour of the south. I have followed your activities for a long time. On behalf of all honest Arabs and on my own behalf, I want to express deep appreciation of your support and solidarity. You know that we are all in the same trench, facing the same, single enemy and resisting the imperialist onslaught, led by the United States of America. You were all aware of U.S. President Carter's visit to the area, which was preceded by a large power demonstration. I would like to make it clear to you that we are expecting many problems in this area [words indistinct]. However, when I received a threat that problems would be created for us, I immediately and openly announced that our revolution is the one that threatens and that it will never be threatened by any party. Everybne must realize that this revolution has nothing more to lose. They might be able to use some of their hirelings to create problems for us here or there, they might even explode the situation, but once again I tell them that no one can bypass this revolution. This revolution will never be liquidated or relinquished. A year ago, Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO. At that time, I said to Brzezinski: Goodbye to U.S. interests in the area. Well, you can all see what is going on. The Iranian revolutionary masses were able to strike at the most important link to U.S. interests in this area.

What are they proposing to us? What are they offering us through the conspiratorial treaty, which they agreed to call a peace treaty? They are only offering us a new, humiliating treaty of bondage through the proposed autonomy. We have caused this revolution to erupt and have paid a very high price in the blood of thousands of martyrs. We have done all this so that we can be ourselves, free and liberated. We are more determined than ever to reject the humiliating and defeatist treaty. This is not a shame and a humiliation for our people alone but also for [word indistinct].

It is true that the enemy will withdraw from parts of Sinai. But they are selling Jerusalem for a handful of Sinai sand. They are selling the Egyptians' freedom and independence. More than that, Carter intends to establish a tripartite military pact that includes Egypt, the United States and Israel. This comes after their defeat in Iran.

For all of that, Carter came to the area preceded by his military show, in which ships of the 6th Fleet crossed the Suez Canal and other vessels are moving toward the Sea of Oman. Moreover, they are building a new fleet, to be called the 5th Fleet, which is intended to stay in the area. Why are they doing all of this? They want to place more pressure on the area. This is a direct U.S. threat against the area, with the purpose of forcing the area to yield to the conditions of Carter's and Begin's settlement. This is a false peace. It is the peace of the powerful, which is imposed against the weak.

However, neither their plots nor their fleets will be able to frighten us. We will fight until the last bullet and the last man. As I said earlier, we have nothing more to lose. They are the ones who will lose, and will lose badly.

We will not let the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat plots pass. There is a popular upheaval inside the occupied homeland; this courageous uprising of our brave masses inside the occupied territories will prevent Carter, Begin and As-Sadat from carrying out their plot. The Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, will resist and face this plot, as well as all the conspirators and hirelings, regardless of the powers that might support the plot. We will continue to fight. The stream of our blood, which runs in defense of liberty and independence, will not end and we will defeat imperialism.

FATAH REPRESENTATIVE DENIES PALESTINIAN FORCES IN UGANDA

NC181553 Doha QNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 18 March--Fatah's representative in Saudi Arabia, Rafiq Shakir an-Natshah, has denied reports published recently about the dispatch of Palestinian fighters to Uganda to reinforce President Idi Amin's forces against Tanzania. In a statement published today by the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWARRAH, An-Natshah said that an urgent communication with the Palestinian revolution's command has confirmed that these reports are untrue.

BAHRAIN

JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE ARRIVES IN MANAMA

JN191103 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 19 March--Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived here this morning on a brief visit to Bahrain with a message from King Husayn of Jordan for His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. The message deals with the current Arab situation following the recent visit of U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the area.

It should be recalled that King Husayn recently dispatched envoys to Riyadh, Muscat, Abu Dhabi and Doha with similar messages to the leaders of these countries.

Husayn's Letter to Amir

JN191451 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 19 March--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a letter from King Husayn of Jordan. The letter was delivered by Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, when he met the amir today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY after the meeting, the Jordanian minister said that he explained King Husayn's and Jordan's views on the Arab situation and the developments which will confront the Arab nation in the future as a result of the peace treaty agreed on by Israel and Egypt.

The minister said that he also briefed the amir ofBahrain on the results of yesterday's visit to Jordan by Dr Brezinski, the U.S. President's adviser for national security.

The minister further said that he heard Bahrain's views on Arab issues and future eventualities. He affirmed that Jordan's present and future position is based on the Baghdad Arab summit conference and that Jordan's position in dealing with the Middle East crisis has a firm foundation. Jordan's position, he said, is based on the demand for a comprehensive settlement based on complete Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. Only in this way can a just peace be realized. Therefore, Jordan has not agreed to the terms of the peace agreements because they do not meet these demands, the minister said.

The Jordanian minister said: The agreement and the treaty between Egypt and Israel are regarded by Jordan as separate and partial, and cannot result in a just peace in the Middle East. Jordan's position is that the desired peace can be achieved through placing the issue within an international framework, such as the United Nations.

Minister's Departure

JN191453 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 19 March--Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Manama today for Kuwait after a visit of several hours to Bahrain during which he conveyed a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on the current Arab situation. He was seen off on departure by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, and Musa al-Kilani, Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

REPRESENTATION AT 25 MAR ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

LD171612 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 March, KUNA--Kuwait today announced that it will attend the new session of the Arab League Council scheduled for 25 March in Mogadiscio. This was stated by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who told reporters that he would be leading the Kuwaiti delegation. At the same time, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that the Arab League Council will discuss, among other things, a Kuwaiti demand for a review of the shares of the 22 member countries in the league. He did not give any details about this request and said that it would be discussed first by the league's administrative and financial committee before its submission to the council.

CABINET DISCUSSES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

LD191504 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 19 March--The Kuwaiti Cabinet today discussed a message which Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received recently from U.S. President Carter.

Jasim al-Marzuq, acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said following the weekly Cabinet meeting held today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, prime minister and heir apparent, that the message explained the U.S. attitude toward the latest developments in the Middle East.

He added that the Cabinet made an "extensive" discussion of the stands of the Arab countries with respect to the Egyptian and Israeli intention to sign a unilateral agreement between them and the possible consequences of the implementation of the Arab summit conference resolutions following the signing of the treaty. These resolutions were adopted during the conference held in Baghdad last November.

Al-Marzuq said that the Cabinet also discussed the two messages exchanged recently between the amir of Kuwait and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He added that 'Arafat's message explained the current Arab conditions and the PLO attitude toward them.

JORDANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FROM HUSAYN

LD191834 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim arrived in Kuwait at about 1700 this afternoon. He was welcomed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah; the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait; and by the acting director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

The Jordanian minister said that he was carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother his highness the amir of Kuwait concerning the current situation in the Arab world. He said that his visit to Kuwait came within the context of the continuous contacts between the two countries. Commenting on the visit of Brzezinski, adviser to the U.S. President for national security affairs, to Amman, he said that the visit came within the framework of the continuous contacts between Jordan and the United States with regard to the Middle East problem.

HUNGARIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN PAYS VISIT

Delegation's Arrival

LD171615 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 March, KUNA--Hungarian Chairman of the Council of Ministers Gyorgy Lazar arrived here on an official visit to Kuwait, during which he will have talks on means of consolidating cooperation between the two countries. He was welcomed at the airport by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, and senior officials. Lazar is accompanied by Minister of Foreign Trade Dr Jozsef Biro, foreign under secretary Robert Garai, and a number of senior Hungarian officials.

Mr Lazar will tomorrow meet Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and will then have talks with Shaykh Sa'd on means of consolidating cooperation between the two countries in all spheres and on international issues of common interest.

Conclusion of Visit

LD191822 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary, Gyorgy Lazar, and the accompanying delegation, left Kuwait at about 1600 today after a 3-day state visit to Kuwait. He was seen off at the airport by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, a number of ministers and high-ranking officials.

Joint Communique

LD191830 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following joint communique has been released on the visit of His Excellency the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary Gyorgy Lazar, to Kuwait:

At the invitation of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary, paid a state visit to Kuwait from 17 to 19 March 1979.

His excellency and the delegation accompanying him were warmly welcomed, reflecting the relations of friendship between Kuwait and the People's Republic of Hungary. During his visit, a meeting was held between the amir of Kuwait and his guest. In an atmosphere of cordiality and common understanding, talks were held between Gyorgy Lazar and Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, with the participation of a number of officials from the two sides. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and international issues of common interest. The two sides noted with satisfaction the development of relations between their respective countries, especially what had been achieved in economic cooperation. They also underlined other possibilities available for expanding the fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit, agreements were signed on air transport, and on health and information cooperation, together with a program of action.

In reviewing the international political situation, the two sides stressed the need for all the peace-loving countries to intensify their efforts to develop and strengthen international peace and security. Both sides expressed their deep concern over the use of force in solving problems between states, outlining the need to solve these problems according to the principles of the UN Charter.

During their discussions of the grave and delicate situation in the Middle East, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that a just, lasting peace in the region cannot be realized without an Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab occupied territories, including the city of Jerusalem; and the recovery by the Arab Palestinian people of their national legitimate rights, including setting up their own independent state, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the two sides expressed their conviction of the futility of separate agreements, and stressed the need for the participation of all the interested parties, including the representatives of the Palestinian people, in all the efforts made to realize the desired peace, and the need to confine these efforts to the framework of the United Nations.

The two sides expressed their conviction that preserving security and stability in the gulf area is the responsibility of the gulf states alone, without any foreign interference. They also underlined the need to make the Indian Ocean a peace zone. The two sides stressed the importance of giving momentum to the development process in the developing countries, and the need for an effective contribution by advanced countries to setting up a new, equitable international economic order which is in the interests of both the advanced and developing countries.

The two sides put particular emphasis on the need to strengthen and respect the right of all states to the independent administration of their natural resources. Gyorgy Lazar expressed his thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him during this visit. He extended an invitation to the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, to visit Hungary; his highness accepted the invitation with thanks. The date of the invitation will be fixed at a later date.

OMAN

OFFICIAL TALKS ON IRANIAN TROOPS, PDRY RELATIONS

JN171213 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Paris, 17 March--Yusuf al-'Alawi, under secretary of the Omani Foreign Ministry, has stated that the Iranian troops stationed in the southern region--Dhofar--are being withdrawn according to an agreement with the former Iranian Government under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He said that contacts with the new government are aimed at formulating a timetable for completing this withdrawal.

In an interview with the Paris-based newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI today, Al-'Alawi stated that the Omani forces no longer need the Iranian troops because stability and tranquility have been restored to the Dhofar area.

Regarding reports about the presence of Egyptian troops in Oman to replace the Iranian troops, Al-'Alawi said that the Dhofar area is open to any guest. He added that when Oman sought the assistance of the Iranian troops, it did not do so in secret. If Oman considers it in its interest to seek the help of friendly forces, it will do so in public.

Al-'Alawi added that the statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry has denied the presence of Egyptian troops. He said: However, we have said that we welcome any help from our friends. Oman is a confrontation country facing (?communist) threats. Oman has faced such external threats in the past, specifically from South Yemen against whom we waged the 7-year Dhofar war.

Al-'Alawi added that Oman is the target of communist and leftist forces. The Aden Government provided [word indistinct] to the revolutionaries and regular South Yemeni forces participated in the war.

The activities of the saboteurs have been wiped out, he added. However, relations with Aden have not returned to normal. This means that the threat still exists. If Oman is forced to enter into a battle and considers the challenge beyond its capabilities, then it will welcome any help from friends. This is natural.

On Oman's dispute with the UAE, Al-'Alawi said that the origin of this dispute dates back to the British presence when border agreements existed between the former Sultan Sa'id ibn Taymur and the UAE. Disputes took place due to border violations. He stressed that all the contacts and talks held to find a solution ended in agreement and that the situation did not reach the point where relations were severed or where fighting began.

Al-'Alawi also stressed that Oman's relations with Saudi Arabia are good, and that border disputes, if they exist, are not that important. What is important now is to develop relations of cooperation. On relations with Aden, Al-'Alawi said that Oman has asked the PDRY not to interfere in our affairs and to stop information campaigns and the training and exporting of rebels.

Al-'Alawi pointed out that the differences with Aden forced Oman to seek the help of Iran [words indistinct] PDRY. The Iranian presence in Oman was used by the PDRY as a pretext to achieve various objectives, including above all that of obtaining military and financial assistance.

Al-'Alawi explained that before the assassination of former Yemeni President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, the PDRY asked his country to keep the Iranian troops. Al-'Alawi added that Saudi Arabia mediated between his country and Aden, and that the Aden officials wanted the Iranian withdrawal to take place after the signing of an agreement between Oman and the PDRY so that it would be said that the withdrawal was the result of pressures exerted by the PDRY. Naturally, no agreement was signed.

QATAR

JORDANIAN MINISTER DELIVERS HUSAYN LETTER TO AMIR

NC190944 Doha QNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 19 March--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a letter from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the latest Arab situation in light of the proposed Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Jordan's attitude toward this treaty and the outcome of the recent Palestinian-Jordanian meetings.

The letter was delivered by Jordanian Minister of the Royal Court 'Amir Khammash, who called on his highness the amir in his office in Ad-Dawhah Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Qatari Minister of Labor and Social Affairs 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari and Jordanian ambassador in Doha, 'Aziz al-Kabariti.

SAUDI ARABIA

CHIEF OF JORDANIAN ROYAL COURT ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD161330 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, arrived in Riyadh today and was met at the airport by Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahab, chief of royal protocol.

Sharaf's Departure

LD161800 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, left Riydah this evening after a visit of only a few hours to the kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by Shaykh 'Adb ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

PAKISTANI DEFENSE AID REPORTEDLY REQUESTED

JN161530 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Islamabad, 16 March--Saudi Arabia has asked Pakistan to provide technical assistance for Saudi Arabia's defense in the form of labor, equipment and training facilities. Diplomatic sources in Islamabad told the INA correspondent that the visit of the Pakistani delegation--which included Pakistani Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Pakistani Presidential Adviser on foreign affairs Agha Shahi--to Saudi Arabia in early March came at the Saudi Arabian Governments' invitation and had nothing to do with the case of former Premier Bhutto, who is facing a death sentence.

The sources added that the Saudi Arabian Government has requested high-level talks on the issue of Pakistani assistance.

PAPERS COMMENT ON FAYSAL'S STATEMENT, BRZEZINSKI TRIP

LD190850 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 March--The newspaper AL-JAZIRAH has affirmed that the United States could play an effective role in bringing about a just peace which would restore to the Arab nation and the Palestine people their usurped legitimate rights and consolidate security and stability for the countries and peoples of the area.

Commenting on Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's statement yesterday at the end of the visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom by the President's national security adviser, Brzezinski, the paper said that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has again reiterated its declared position vis-a-vis the peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and that it throws all its political, economic, social and military weight behind a just solution which would retrieve the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and return and secure the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

The American understanding of the essence of justice which the Arab nation seeks in any peaceful solution will become clearer following the frank talks Brzezinski has had in Riyadh, the paper added. The close friendship between the kingdom and the United States, the paper said, will help both countries reach a common understanding of what could lead to a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper AL-MADINAH has also commented on the same topic. It said that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's statements are only a confirmation of the kingdom's position which will remain constant and firm with regard to the basic points which would satisfy the ambitions and aspirations of the Arab nation.

The paper added that the kingdom's assertions mean that the Jewish evacuation from all the occupied territories including Jerusalem is a demand from which there can be no retreat, that any solution which does not provide for such a complete withdrawal cannot hope to win Arab approval, and that any solution which fails to satisfy the Palestine people will not bring the desired political stability.

UAE

AL NUHAYYAN SAYS MIDEAST PEACE WILL 'CAUSE WAR'

JN191156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 March--UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has said that the United States does not give peace to anyone; on the contrary, it will cause wars and create more divisions and enmities in the area.

In a statement to the Lebanese magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI today, Shaykh Zayid said that the U.S. initiative will inflame the Arab world, and that the peace chosen by the United States means war and the world will discover this sooner or later.

The UAE president said that the gulf does not need pacts and that it rejects and avoids them because pacts with those who are near us will not spare us pacts with those who are far from us. He asserted that the people of the gulf do not need anyone to defend them nor do they need assistance from any quarter.

ALGERIA'S BOUTEFLIKA MEETS WITH AL NUHAYYAN

JN160928 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 March--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan met last night with Abdelaziz Bouteflika, adviser to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, during his short visit to the UAE. Mr Bouteflika briefed Shaykh Zayid on the results of the work of the Arab followup committee on the conflict between the two parts of Yemen. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations in various fields and with developments in the Middle East, particularly pertaining to the Palestinian issue and the application of the Baghdad summit resolutions. Mr Bouteflika left Abu Dhabi for home early today.

JORDANIAN COURT MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN171532 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 March--'Amir Khammash, Jordanian minister of court, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat today on a 1-day visit to the UAE within a tour of the gulf states. He was received at the airport by Sa'id ad-Darmake, chief of protocol; and 'Ali Khurays, Jordan's ambassador in Abu Dhabi. In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Mr Khammash said that he will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the latest developments in the Arab region. He added that his visit to the UAE is a part of the consultations between the two countries regarding the circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing.

On Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, Mr Khammash expressed the hope that the visit will culminate in good results for Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The PLO Executive Committee chairman's visit, he added, is intended to continue the contacts already made between Jordan and a number of the Palestinian resistance movement's leaders.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT APPOINTS AL-BAYDA' PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

JN192043 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article I: Lt Col Ahmad Salih Zuwayd shall be appointed governor of the Al-Bayda' Province.

Article II: This decision shall become effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued in the Presidential Palace on 19 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, and Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

Provincial Commander Appointment

JN192045 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered military decree]

[Text] Article I: Lt Col Ahmad Isma'il Muhammad shall be appointed commander of the Al-Bayda' Province.

Article II: This decision becomes effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette and military publications.

Issued by the armed forces General Command in San'a' on 19 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

ETHIOPIAN MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SAN'A'

JN151540 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 15 March--Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, has received a letter from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The letter was delivered to President Salih by Berhanu Baye, member of the Permanent Committee of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, when he met with Salih today. Baye arrived in San'a' at the head of a military delegation that includes eight senior Ethiopian Army officers.

MINISTER REJECTS AS-SADAT'S 'SEPARATE' SOLUTION

JN191114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 19 March--The YAR has stressed its rejection of the capitulationist steps taken by Egypt's ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, to sign a separate treaty with the Zionist enemy.

In a statement to the INA correspondent here, Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj said that a separate solution with the Zionist enemy does not serve the cause of Arab solidarity. He said that the YAR adheres to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit and is committed to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab cause based on the regaining of the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people and their right to a state on their usurped land.

FLIGHTS BETWEEN YAR, PDRY RESUME 18 MAR

JN181426 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 March--Flights between the capitals of the two Yemens were resumed today. The flights between the two parts of Yemen were suspended about 4 weeks ago because of armed dispute between them.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES AMBASSADORS, PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN191242 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] At 1030 today, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received Vasiliy Kornev, the Soviet ambassador in San'a', with whom he discussed bilateral relations.

At 1100, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received (Fikri az-Zayd), the PLO representative in San'a', who conveyed to the president a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

At 1200, the president received (Mustafa 'Abd al-Baqi), the Sudanese charge d'affaires in San'a'. President Salih and the Sudanese charge d'affaires discussed bilateral relations and ways to further consolidate joint cooperation. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent has learned that the Sudanese charge d'affaires brought a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. At 1230, president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received George Lane, the U.S. ambassador in San'a', and reviewed bilateral relations with him.

AS-SADAT REPORTED TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON 24 MARCH

NC200740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--AL-AHRAM reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat will leave for Washington this Saturday. The paper adds that President as-Sadat received a message yesterday from Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Washington, informing him that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has fixed Monday, 26 March as the date for signing the agreement, and that he chose Monday afternoon for this purpose so that the signing ceremony may be relayed via satellite to the Middle East area.

AL-AHRAM points out that President as-Sadat's tour this time will be confined to a visit to the United States, where he is expected to stay for 5 days. He will meet with U.S. congressmen and businessmen and will discuss the economic agreement with President Carter. AL-AHRAM further reports that President as-Sadat will spend 1 night in one of the European capitals on his way to Washington and that he might spend another night in another European capital on his way back to Cairo. It adds that the president will take with him to Washington all members of the delegation who accompanied him on his historic visit to Jerusalem, some members of the National Democratic Party and dean of doctors Dr Hamdi as-Siyyad. The paper says that the delegation to Jerusalem consisted of Dr Mustafa Khalil, Hasan at-Tuhami, Hasan Kamil, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, Dr Butrus Ghali, Sa'id Muhammad Ahmad, Mustafa Kamil Murad, Fawzi 'Abd al-Hafiz, Lt Gen Muhammad Sa'id al-Mahi, Ahmad Fu'ad Taymur, 'Abd al-Bari Sulayman, Salim al-Yamani and Dr Usamah al-Baz.

AL-AHRAM points out that following his return to Cairo President as-Sadat will deliver an important statement at the People's Assembly. He will deal with the details of the situation and will inaugurate the debate on the completion of the 15 May revolution.

REPORTAGE ON MUBARAK, AL-BAZ EUROPEAN TOUR

Mubarak, Giscard d'Estaing Meeting

NC161852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Paris, 16 March--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing received today at the Elysee Palace Vice President Husni Mubarak. The meeting lasted 80 minutes.

Following the meeting, Vice President Mubarak was asked by journalists about the nature of the talks. He said: I came to explain to President Giscard d'Estaing all the developments in the situation and what the talks have achieved as far as the treaty is concerned.

In answer to a question on his talks 2 days ago with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, Vice President Mubarak said: I have no comment on these talks. However, there is every friendship between us and Saudi Arabia and Arab moderates.

Asked whether the Arab moderates approve of the treaty or the recent moves, he said: I don't want to embarrass anyone, but we are doing what we believe is correct and in the general interest. In answer to a question about the Palestinian issue, he said: We are working for the Palestinian cause.

However, if there are those who are opposing the solution, let them come forward and suggest something better than we have done and we are ready to follow them.

Asked about the nature of self-rule, Vice President Mubarak said: Self-rule will have its powers. We will discuss the powers of the autonomous government 1 month after the signing of the agreement. Asked about the reactions of the others states which he visited, he said: I cannot speak on behalf of other states but I can say that I explained to them our stand and the results of the talks held recently regarding the treaty.

Asked about his impressions following his visits to these states, Vice President Mubarak said: I believe it is better to leave this subject of reactions until after the agreement comes into existence. In answer to a question on France's attitude, he said: I will leave it up to the French officials themselves to comment. Asked if he had conveyed a message from President as-Sadat to President Giscard d'Estaing, he said: I conveyed a verbal message from President as-Sadat to President Giscard d'Estaing.

Asked if this agreement will isolate Egypt from the Arabs, Vice President Mubarak said: Egypt will not be isolated. Egypt isolates but does not get isolated.

The meeting, which lasted over 1 hour, was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Paris Muhammad Hafiz Isma'il and French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet.

Mubarak on French, Saudi Talks

NC172028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Paris, 17 March--Vice President Husni Mubarak said in an interview with AFP today that the coming stage will be one of the most important stages of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, because it will focus on the achievement of the first step in enabling the Palestinian people to rule themselves. Mubarak said: These negotiations will be difficult and complex, but we are determined to go ahead with firmness and resolution for the sake of our Palestinian brothers, who are our comrades on the road under all circumstances.

After asserting in his interview that the talks he held yesterday evening with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing were characterized by friendliness and objectivity, Mubarak described the French position on the Middle East crisis as "positive." Mubarak pointed out that France and Egypt agree in their concentration on the essence of the conflict and on the need to achieve tangible progress for the Palestinian people. Mubarak said: France can play not only a beneficial but also an essential role if it crystallizes the principles which must govern the comprehensive settlement. Mubarak added: The political dimension of the Palestinian problem is much more important than the human dimension. The Palestinian people are basically struggling for their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own homeland in their land. He pointed out that France was in the forefront of the European states which realized this fact and announced it in various statements.

In his interview with MENA Vice President Mubarak said that France is playing an active role to define an effective European position. This will enhance Egypt's ability to move toward the achievement of the aims of the Palestinian struggle, "which is an indivisible part of our struggle."

Mubarak affirmed that his talks with King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and senior Saudi officials were cordial and compatible with the friendship which exists between the two countries. He denied reports that the atmosphere at his meeting with Prince Fahd was unfriendly.

Vice President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt does not accept the establishment of American military bases or any other bases on its territory. He said that Egypt adheres to the principles of nonalinement. Concluding his interview, Mubarak said: The Americans did not ask directly or indirectly for the establishment of military bases in Egypt.

Al-Baz on Saudi Aid

NC192222 Cairo MENA in English 2200 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] London, March 19, (MENA)- The purpose of Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to London is to brief British Premier James Callaghan on what was achieved in recent weeks as far as the Middle East is concerned and consult with him on the forthcoming steps aiming at achieving autonomy in the West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza Strip and the continuation of the peace process after the signature of the peace treaty.

In a press statement to Egyptian and British reporters here today, the Egyptian First Foreign Undersecretary Dr Usamah al-Baz further said Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia was "fruitful and very friendly," adding that Saudi officials were completely briefed and consulted on the forthcoming steps to be adopted.

Asked to comment on recent statements by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt under the agreement had restored land and was emancipated from foreign presence on both the civilian and military levels, and laid the bases for a solution of the Palestinian question.

"This is not a final solution; it is only a start on the road to a permanent settlement," Dr al-Baz said.

The first foreign undersecretary of state said Egypt does not expect specific steps by the British Government or call on it for certain obligations. Our purpose, he said, is to explain facts and to discuss with it our concepts of the future.

He added that Egypt welcomed advice or reactions on the part of Britain, for the British people understand the problem fully and is in a position to give a piece of advice.

Dr al-Baz said: "We are not perturbed over reports on the discontinuance of Saudi subsidies, for everything that happens in the Arab world is only temporary...We are concerned rather over the peace process in Gaza and the West Bank, where the autonomy rule will be translated into reality within a year or less for the Palestinians to be able to share in."

Dr al-Baz said Jerusalem is an integral and inseparable part of the West Bank and it is unanimously held that the measures taken there by Israel since the 1967 aggression are null and void.

Dr al-Baz said U.S. President Carter had given two kinds of guarantees for peace in the Middle East:

First: The United States is committed to proceed with the peace process with Egypt; and second: The United States will spare itself no effort to achieve a solution to the Palestine problem.

In this context, Dr al-Baz said the U.S. standpoint on self-rule in the bank and the strip is close to Egypt's. The United States believes in the evitability of setting up a self-rule and shares Egypt's belief that it would be possible for the Israelis and the Palestinians to co-exist, in the best interests of the Palestinians particularly.

Giving his impression of Vice President Husni Mubarak's talks in Khartoum, Riyadh, Paris and London, Dr al-Baz said all concerned in those countries share Egypt's viewpoint.

He said there was unanimity on two points:

First: Achievements so far are a step on a long road towards peace; and second: Interest in the coming months should focus on negotiation over the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, such negotiation being the only means conducive to the improvement of the peace process and to progress towards a comprehensive solution.

Dr al-Baz said that within two weeks after signing the peace agreement, Egypt would contact Israel either directly or through the United States to begin negotiations over Gaza and the West Bank.

Departs London; Bonn Statement

NC192036 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Bonn this evening from London, where he met with Prime Minister James Callaghan.

Mubarak stated that he found good support from Callaghan for Egypt's efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, and that he was very satisfied with their talks.

Referring to his present mission, he said that the aim is to explain the steps agreed upon under the peace treaty, which will be signed soon. He stated that the purpose of his tour is not to convince others because Egypt is convinced of what it is doing. He noted that it took great efforts to accomplish what has been accomplished so far. He said that the world agrees with Egypt that a just solution must be found for the Palestine question, and is convinced that what has been achieved is only a first step toward a comprehensive settlement.

Referring to the attitude of certain Arab states and what is being said about boycotting Egypt, Mubarak said that they are adopting a hostile attitude because we are making efforts to settle the issue.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz has stated that Vice President Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia was fruitful and very friendly. He added that during the visit the Saudi officials were given a complete picture of the situation. Consultations were also held with them on the future steps, he said.

REPORTAGE ON GHALI ACTIVITIES, STATEMENTS

Says Treaty To Be Signed

NC191532 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the draft peace treaty will be signed within days in Washington. Dr Ghali noted that it would then be submitted to the People's Assembly and the Israeli Knesset for ratification. Implementation, he said, will begin after ratification. The treaty, he noted, is a first step toward a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and added that negotiations on the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza will begin 1 month after the treaty is signed. Ghali said he hoped that the obstacles in the way of implementation of the treaty would be surmounted.

Interviewed on Treaty

NC182104 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the "Free Opinion" program conducted by the program's producer Mahmud Dhuhni and AL-AHRAM's assistant chief editor Hamdi Fu'ad--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Welcome, Mr Minister. The negotiations between Egypt and Israel--with the United States as a full partner--were very strenuous from the time of President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem until the statement made by President Carter at Cairo airport announcing the success of the U.S. initiative to bring about a signing of the treaty. It is clear that the peace treaty will not mean the end of the Egyptian efforts to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. In fact, the real efforts will begin after the peace treaty is signed. Still, Mr Minister, it is being rumored by the anti-Egyptian traditional circles that this is a separate peace between Egypt and Israel. What is the truth of the matter?

[Answer] This is not true. The irrevocable evidence is that not only one but two agreements will be signed in Washington. One agreement deals with the withdrawal from Sinai--the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty--and the other deals with Gaza and the West Bank--the exchange of identical letters between Egypt and Israel on the future of Gaza and the West Bank. This is positive evidence that there is going to be more than one agreement. Add to this that if we refer to the text of the beginning of the first treaty, or to the text of the second agreement, we will see in them all that the aim is to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis, and to hold negotiations later on between the Arab states and Israel. Egypt is prepared to play the role of full partner in these negotiations later on between the Arab states and Israel. Egypt is prepared to play the role of full partner in these negotiations. Furthermore, the principles applied to the withdrawal from Sinai--all the Egyptian territory of Sinai, including the removal of all settlements erected in Sinai--will apply to the Golan Heights and to the West Bank and Gaza. We cannot say that what has been done is a partial settlement of the Middle East problem. These agreements--the first and the second, which will be signed in Washington--as well as the other documents, all represent the beginning of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

[Question] On the question of Jerusalem: You probably noticed yesterday that most of the Arab ambassadors were talking about Jerusalem. Isn't there a clear reference to the future of the city of Jerusalem in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement or in the complementary agreements?

[Answer] The future of Jerusalem is clearly stated in the first Camp David agreement, according to which withdrawal shall be from all the territories occupied after June 1967; Arab Jerusalem was one of the areas occupied after June 1967, so, the Camp David decisions say there must be withdrawal from Arab Jerusalem. This is frankly stated. Furthermore, and to confirm this point, letters have been exchanged between the U.S. and Egyptian sides emphasizing that the view of the Egyptian side is that Arab Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank and that all the principles applied to the West Bank must apply to Arab Jerusalem. Furthermore, the U.S. side--with the weight that it has--has supported this view in an official letter it sent to the Egyptian side saying that the U.S. acknowledges that Arab Jerusalem must return to the Arab homeland--that is, to the West Bank. So, the question of Jerusalem has been dealt with frankly, since Camp David I.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] We have said that there are two agreements. One deals with withdrawal [from Sinai], and the other deals with the West Bank and Gaza. There are also some explanations. All these are considered international treaties that commit the sides which sign them. The first agreement will be signed by Egypt and Israel, and the United States will sign as a witness. The second agreement will be signed by Egypt and Israel, and the United States will sign as a witness. They are equally committing, and will be registered at the United Nations.

[Question] Actually the second part was about the United Nations. We know that President as-Sadat's initiative was launched to activate the Middle East issue and to promote peace and a just and lasting settlement. Before that, the Geneva conference and the United Nations were the framework for such moves, until it became evident that this framework is frozen and [words indistinct]. What is the UN's role after the signing of the peace treaty and the supplementary documents?

[Answer] The UN's role is basic. First of all, we will see on the question of withdrawal from Sinai that UN forces will have a role in the security arrangements. This is one point. Another point is that according to the first Camp David agreement, when all the documents--which will lead to peace--are signed, they must be submitted to the Security Council, which will ratify them. Of course, the United States and the Soviet Union are members of the Security Council. In other words, in the final stages, it will be like asking for ratification by the big powers within the Security Council. Here again we see that the United Nations will act as the ratifier of the treaties. Furthermore, all these documents will be registered at the UN General Secretariat. Add to this the fact that in the coming stages we will be prepared to let the United Nations participate in certain technical aspects and some of the negotiations. The United Nations has played a basic role in all the phases of the Middle East crisis and will play a basic role in the future in promoting a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

[Question] While in Brussels, Dr Ghali said that the objective of President As-Sadat's initiative is to recognize others. In other words, on its part, Egypt will recognize Israel's existence. However, and in return for this, there will be an Israeli recognition of the Palestinians.

Perhaps I am far from foreign policy, unlike you, who is well versed in this subject. However, I believe, Doctor, that at a specific phase, it is imperative for this direct dialog to take place between the United States and the Palestinians on the one hand, and between Israel and the Palestinians on the other. Then the complementary agreement will be more complete, because we have indeed agreed to negotiate with Israel and to establish peace with it. Therefore, it is imperative for the other side to recognize the Palestinians and to negotiate with them at a subsequent phase.

[Answer] Mr Madi, we again go back to the Camp David provisions. In accordance with these provisions, we find out that there is a recognition of the Palestinian side by the Israelis. This is because negotiations will begin in the first phase, in which a Palestinian group will participate within the Egyptian delegation. Therefore, this is compatibility. Secondly, following the emergence of Palestinian rule in Gaza and the West Bank, there will be a Palestinian rule that (?will participate in the second round) of the negotiations. This paragraph, in accordance with the Camp David provisions, calls for new negotiations among the Palestinians--that is, the Palestinian autonomous government--Egypt and Israel. Therefore, following the signing of the complementary agreement, we will find out that the United States has pledged to act as a full partner in the coming negotiations on Gaza and the West Bank, at which we will also find the U.S. side present. This means that the Palestinian side will participate in the negotiations as a full member. [sentence as heard] It will be on equal footing with Egypt, the United States or Israel. It has become a member with an independent will. It will negotiate on the side of the Egyptian representative, on the side of the U.S. representative, and on the side of the Israeli representative. If the Jordanian side wants to participate in these negotiations, it will also have the right to do so in accordance with the method established at Camp David. We will find that in the Camp David document there is recognition by the U.S. side and by the Israeli side of a Palestinian existence, of a Palestinian entity, and of a Palestinian people. The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people were frankly mentioned. It was frankly stated that the Palestinian people will participate in determining their fate. This means in effect that the Palestinian side has been frankly recognized by the U.S. side and by the Israeli side in the Camp David documents.

[Question] In the statements he made in the Knesset and in Egypt, President Carter spoke for the first time in a (?firm) manner.

[Answer] In addition to this, I point out that he had earlier spoken of the need for the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinian people.

[Question] Well?

[Answer] No, but you want to say [sentence left incomplete]. Yes, there is a statement. However, what is important for me is that there is a signed document. Furthermore, this Camp David document has become an integral part of the first peace agreement and of the second agreement. The first agreement--on withdrawal from Sinai--mentions the Camp David documents. The second agreement--on Gaza and the West Bank--also mentions the Camp David agreements, which have become an integral part of the peace treaties. Furthermore, Resolution 242 has become an integral part of the Camp David agreements.

[Question] Camp David is mentioned in the peace treaty. Precisely what is your position on the Rabat conference resolutions?

[Answer] There is an integration between the Rabat conference resolutions and the Camp David agreements. What does the Rabat conference say? What is its basic idea? If we discuss its aspects, the most important idea is the recognition of Israel--this is number one--and that a settlement should come about peacefully.

[Question] [Words indistinct] recognizes Israel and they recognize the PLO. (?What is) your excellency's (?opinion)? No, we are speaking of the formulas. The PLO adheres to a decision. There is a recognition of the PLO. However, recognition of Israel is the essence.

[Answer] No, the recognition of Israel is not the essence. The essence is that the crisis must be settled peacefully. In other words, we cannot resolve the Middle East crisis through war. All the states that participated in the Baghdad conference recognized that it is imperative that a settlement of the Middle East crisis be a peaceful one. Consequently, we will see that the Camp David philosphy says we can shun war and coercive methods as a means for solving the Middle East crisis. Therefore, if we set aside the coercive methods, there remains before us only the method of negotiation. There might be differences between some of the rejectionist states and Egypt over the method that should be used in the negotiations. However, the goal is the same: The settlement should be a peaceful one.

[Question] In other words, this was strategically different from the Khartoum conference, which was held after 5 June 1967. The Rabat conference was held after 1973.

[Answer] The Khartoum conference said that we reject peaceful means. The Rabat conference said that the Middle East problem and the Palestine problem must be settled peacefully.

[Question] The credit, of course, goes to the October War.

[Answer] There is no doubt that after our victory in October 1973, public opinion agreed to abandon war as a means of settling the Middle East crisis, and to accept the method of peaceful settlement. We shifted from military war to diplomatic and cultural confrontation. The philosophy of Camp David is that cultural and diplomatic confrontation has taken the place of military confrontation.

[Question] Do you agree with me, Dr Ghali, that when authority is handed over--when Israeli authority is replaced by a Palestinian authority--there will be something of a handing over and taking over of authority? [question as heard] Will the Israeli authorities tell the Palestinians to take over and run their own affairs and fulfill self-rule?

[Answer] Right.

[Question] Does this, legally and diplomatically, mean recognition that there is a Palestinian entity that will take its powers over from the Israeli authorities?

[Answer] Undoubtedly. Just read what the Israeli opposition has been saying in the Knesset. The Israeli opposition is arguing that the signing of the Camp David agreements means the beginning of a Palestinian state. There is no doubt that the transfer of authority, the abolition of Israeli military rule in Gaza and the West Bank, the abolition of the Israeli civilian rule, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces [sentence unfinished].

What remains of these forces will be deployed in military bases. All the Arab states have passed through the phase of military bases. There were British military bases in Egypt until 1954. There were French military bases in Algeria in accordance with the Avian agreements. There were military bases in Tunisia and in Jordan. All the Arab states have passed through the military bases phase. So we will have Israeli military bases [in the West Bank and Gaza]. The aim of this, as frankly stated, is to give some kind of reassurance to the Israeli people, who have developed a complex and are afraid of the Arab world. So we give them reassurance as a transitional stage. When that is accomplished and the relations are normalized, this military situation will end and the West Bank and Gaza will regain full sovereignty. We can say that this means the beginning of a Palestinian state.

[Question] We know that the resolutions passed by the rejectionist conference held in Baghdad took a very sharp form, were characterized by outbidding, went to the extent of moving the Arab League headquarters, and so on. Should we be concerned about the Baghdad conference resolutions if they are indeed implemented by the five rejectionist states?

[Answer] First, the Baghdad conference resolutions are illegal as that meeting was held outside the framework of the Arab League. Second, we adhere to the constitution of the Arab League--the Arab League Charter--which was signed on 22 March 1945. In accordance with this charter, the Arab League headquarters is in Cairo, and it is impossible to move it, except through an amendment of the charter, which requires a special two-thirds majority and extensive measures. Secondly, and concerning the second question, there have been numerous indications that Egypt would be expelled from the Arab League. There is a frank provision in the charter that says that the expulsion is made by the consensus of the member states without taking into account the state in question. Consequently, I am (?90) percent sure that there is no consensus among the Arab states. All this talk is therefore based on rumors. Even more, if Egypt realizes that the Arab League violates the decisions and pursues a policy that conflicts with the constitution, then Egypt will cease its activities with the Arab League.

[Question] Doctor, do you believe that there is any danger posed to the Egyptians who work in the Arab states? You have always held the view that Egypt must participate in all developments in the Arab world and in the African Continent. Furthermore--and I am still quoting you--Egypt is the bulwark of the Arab world and of the nonalinement front [question interrupted].

[Answer] Without wanting to interrupt you, the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee passed an important resolution and asked the government not to withdraw the Egyptian experts in the Arab world. Why? Because the [word indistinct] line will be destroyed. We know that they cannot find any other experts to replace Egyptian experts. They cannot replace an Egyptian instructor who teaches in the most important schools of the Arab world because teaching is in the Arab language. They also cannot replace the Egyptian doctor who enters into the Arab families. The question is this: Through its affiliation with the Arab world and through Arab solidarity, Egypt will prevent any attempt to withdraw Egyptian expertise from the Arab countries. The parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution asking the government to please not withdraw Egyptian experts--allow them to remain in the Arab countries so that they will continue to discharge their services. Then, we will consider their status. For instance, the relations between Egypt and Libya were broken off. Nevertheless, we have some 250,000 Egyptian experts working in Libya to bolster Arab solidarity and serve the Arab peoples across the borders. This is also in accordance with, and due to, our faith in Arab unity.

[Question] In other words, the presence of the Egyptians abroad is an element of pressure that Egypt can use, and not the other way around?

[Answer] On the contrary, we are unable to use this pressure. We cannot use any pressure. We believe in the freedom of the states. It is imperative for these states to be convinced of Egypt's civilized method for settling the Middle East crisis.

Meets With European Ambassadors

NC191212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met this morning with the ambassadors of West and East Europe and Canada accredited to Egypt. The meeting is one of a series of meetings he is holding with the ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries in order to brief them on the latest developments in the area and the Egyptian-Israeli draft peace treaty.

During the meeting, which lasted about 75 minutes, Dr Ghali explained to the ambassadors the clauses and provisions of the draft peace treaty and the upcoming steps in the negotiations on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Dr Ghali also explained some of the articles and the various technical aspects of the treaty.

During the meeting Dr Ghali answered various questions and inquires about the provisions of the treaty. A positive discussion took place that also dealt with Europe's role in the coming stage.

Meets With Asian Ambassador

NC192208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty will be merely the first step toward a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East issue. Dr Ghali said this at a 90-minute meeting tonight with the Asian ambassadors in Cairo. The meeting marked the end of Dr Ghali's concerted contacts with the foreign ambassadors and representatives in Cairo.

At this meeting, which was attended by Foreign Ministry under secretaries and senior officials, Dr Ghali explained the various provisions and interpretations of the peace treaty and the exchanged letters, which are regarded as a second agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the meeting, Dr Ghali answered the Asian ambassadors' questions on the treaty. The discussion was extremely constructive and positive.

With the conclusion of this meeting, Dr Ghali has thus held diplomatic contacts aimed at explaining the dimensions of the treaty with over 100 ambassadors and representatives.

Within the next few days, Dr Ghali is scheduled to make another diplomatic move that will complete the current series and will be aimed at explaining any developments that might occur in connection with the Middle East peace agreement.

Message to Sri Lanka

NC181559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today sent a message to Sri Lanka in its capacity as current chairman of the nonalined group. The message, which is to be conveyed to the nonalined states, deals with the latest developments in the Middle East in light of what has been achieved vis-a-vis the peace treaty.

Ghali today handed the message to the ambassador of Sri Lanka in Cairo.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI ARRIVES, INTERVIEWED IN WASHINGTON

NC180855 Paris AFP in English 0835 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Washington, March 18 (AFP)--Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan 'Ali after meeting with his Israeli counterpart 'Ezer Weizman told AFP here today that only "a few points remained to be discussed compared to what has already been accomplished."

The most important result of the peace treaty between the two countries would be to divert investments previously used for defense to peaceful purpose, he said.

Mr. 'Ali went into discussion with Mr. Weizman immediately after his arrival here yesterday.

The two ministers have come to Washington to work on the final details concerning the demilitarisation of the Sinai Desert and on the U.S. military aid which Washington has promised to the two countries. They are scheduled to meet later today with U.S. officials.

'Ali Press Conference

NC192144 Cairo MENA in English 2100 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Washington, March 19, (MENA)--Egypt's Minister of Defense General Kamal Hasan 'Ali said today that Egypt at present has varied sources of supply for weapons basically from Western countries and the United States.

Key elements are airplanes to stop any aggression and match the sophisticated weapons in neighboring countries, particularly Libya and Ethiopia, who have the MIG-23 and MIG-29 [as received], the minister said.

Egypt, he added, now needs some weapons to substitute the Soviet weapons that have been failing. He estimated that Libya has two hundred airplanes and about two thousand tanks.

He said that Egypt needs these weapons to protect itself and the Sudan, whose borders have been violated three months ago by Ethiopia. He also cited the events in South Yemen as warranting Egypt to secure new weapons. The minister noted that Egypt, as a member of the Arab League, would go to the assitance of any Arab country whenever there is an attack.

General 'Ali, in a talk with a group of American newsmen, said the signing of a peace treaty should give hope to the Palestinians that there will be full autonomy. The general said the he hoped that moderate Arab countries would back a comprehensive settlement which follows after the signing of the Egyptian, Israeli treaty.

The minister stressed that the peace treaty was the first step in the peace process for a comprehensive settlement and asserted that the partnership of the United States in the negotiations that would start after signing of the treaty is a good guarantee for keeping the momentum of peace and encouraging Palestinians and other Arab countries to join the negotiations for a final peace.

The minister said he does not agree with the reports that the trip of the President's advisor for national security affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to Saudi Arabia ended in failure. He said it is his belief that Brzezinski got full understanding from the Saudis on their views on the peace process. Saudi Arabia wants to make sure that the peace treaty is not a separate peace and the negotiations for a Palestine settlement will continue.

General 'Ali expressed hope that within one year all problems would be solved. He said everything would depend on the parties to fulfill in good faith the Camp David accords.

The minister, who is here for talks with Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, said his talks with both are going well.

He expects Israel to withdraw before the schedule from Al-'Arish. He also said that he will discuss with Brown today the rehabilitation of Soviet equipment by the United States.

General 'Ali said Egypt was facing the danger of having a big power in the area and said what happened in south and gives an indication while what happened in Ethiopia [word indistinct] gives a second indication and what happened in Chad gives a third incidents as such create a possibility of a big conflict in the region. [sentence as received]

Egypt, the general added, would like to be supplied with missiles, particularly ground-to-air missiles. He said Egypt cannot acquire all her needs from Western Europe alone and should thus have to take essential equipment from the United States.

The minister said Egypt would object to the presence of foreign troops on her land but would not object to friendly visits as those that occurred in the past weeks when the 6th Fleet flagship and other vessels visited Alexandria. General 'Ali included submarines and other naval equipment that are being sought by Egypt.

KHALIL AFFIRMS INTEREST IN SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

NC200657 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has affirmed that Egypt attaches great importance to the solution of the Palestinian problem, just as it does with regard to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Egyptian territory.

In a message he sent to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim to brief him on the contents of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, Dr Khalil pointed out that Egypt has worked hard to establish a political and legal linkage between an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the achievement of progress on the Palestinian problem. Dr Khalil added that this linkage is provided for in a complementary agreement which contains a timetable for the measures to establish Palestinian rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In his message to Dr Waldheim, Prime Minister Khalil pointed out that Egypt has always focused its efforts on the achievement of a just solution to the Palestinian problem. Egypt's interest in it made it no less important than Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Egyptian territories and restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over Sinai.

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES IRAN IN NONALINED MOVEMENT

NC191507 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--Egypt, in its capacity as a founding member of the nonalined movement, has welcomed Iran's desire to join the nonalined group.

An official spokesman at the Foreign Ministry said today that Egypt would support Iran's application and that the increasing number of nonalined states would further consolidate the movement and its sublime principles.

Yesterday, Iran applied to join the nonalined movement following its withdrawal from CENTO last week.

CONTRACTS WITH INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES SIGNED

NC170815 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Ciaro, 17 March--Ten major international oil companies have signed contracts with the Egyptian General Petroleum Authority to start oil prospecting in the Sinai after the signing of the peace treaty.

In today's issue, the weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM says that these contracts were signed some time ago because the companies had a hunch that the Sinai would be returned to Egypt.

Quoting an official of the General Petroleum Authority, the paper adds that eight agreements for oil prospecting in the Sinai have already been ratified. The oil exploitation is expected to yield $268 million and will be carried out in the parts of the Sinai that have already been returned to Egypt, such as the Sabkhat Al Bardawil lake, which is still under Israeli control [sentence as received].

BAGHDAD VOP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF U.S. SHIPS, PLANES

JN171957 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Remember, my Arab brother, that the battle of the Palestinian Arab citizen inside the occupied lands is your battle. It is imperative that you give all your support and backing. Let us maintain our stand and resentment against the conspiratorial U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat entity. Let us declare a boycott against the planes, ships and all means of transport and communications belonging to the United States and to As-Sadat, in order to show Arab rejection of all settlement plans and to declare with very loud voices that there is no place for U.S. imperialism and its interests in the region from now on. You, my Arab brother, are capable of shouldering your responsibility. We have known you to be capable at various times and in many situations.

SADDAM HUSAYN: TREATY WILL NOT AFFECT STRUGGLE

JN181242 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has stressed that the agreements Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat wants to sign with the Zionist entity will not affect the Arab struggle march, which will continue to go forward.

In a speech he delivered this morning to thousands of people of Maysan Province who thronged in front of the governorate building, Saddam Husayn stressed that the will of the people and the nation will eventually triumph and achieve the aspirations of the Arab masses in all fields.

Saddam Husayn said that Egypt's ruler was attracted to downfall because he is unable to rise upwards. As-Sadat was not qualified to rise conscientiously, intellectually or psychologically.

Your Arab Socialist Ba'th Party will always desire to rise upward to achieve the noble values of the people. Saddam Husayn pointed out that the Iraqi people have a pan-Arab mission that goes beyond the Iraqi border. They are required to carry this mission to the entire Arab homeland and to convey enlightenment to every corner of the Arab community.

Further Remarks

JN191810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Al-'Amarah, southern Iraq, 19 March--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, has declared that Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat will meet the same fate as that of the shah of Iran. He said corrupt rulers believe that they can oppress the people and impose a fait accompli on them. However, they eventually realize that they are incapable of doing so. This is the way it was in Iran when the shah thought he could impose his will on the Iranian people forever. However, he eventually ended up isolated. The same will happen to As-Sadat, and the time will come when he will look right and left and not see anyone with him. This is the fate of every dictator.

This was stated in a speech Saddam Husayn made to the masses who gathered to greet him while he was on an inspection tour of Maysan Province. The tour started yesterday.

Saddam Husayn added: When Carter pats As-Sadat on the shoulder, As-Sadat thinks he owns the world and forgets that the one who is patting him will cause his demise and is causing the gap between As-Sadat and the Egyptian people to widen.

Saddam Husayn continued: Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat is an example of treason to the Arab nation and people. Traitorous rulers lose above all the ability to feel and act according to the dictates of conscience and fail to have any vision of the genuine ties which should bind them to the people.

Saddam Husayn added: You are dutybound to strengthen Iraq scientifically, economically and militarily. This will enable us to confront the enemy. Palestine is a trust you must uphold. Everyone of you is responsible not just for building a prosperous and strong Iraq, but for performing a leading and prominent pan-Arab role in the liberation of the entire Arab nation.

FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS SOUGHT IF TREATY SIGNED

JN200925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--Iraq will call for two meetings of the Arab foreign and economic ministers immediately upon the sighing of the separate peace agreement between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity.

This was conveyed to the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad by 'Abd Al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary, during his meeting with them last Wednesday. During the meeting they discussed the Egyptian regime's determination to sign the capitulatory treaty with the Zionist entity and its impact on the Arab's central issue--Palestine--in particular and on pan-Arab issues in general.

Al-Jamali urged the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions to contact their governments and inform them that Iraq, in light of its commitments outlined by the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad, will call for two meetings of the Arab foreign and economic ministers immediately upon the signing of the separate agreement, in order to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions on dealing with the Egyptian regime, transferring the Arab League headquarters from Cairo, and reconsidering Egypt's membership in the Arab League.

Al-Jamali pointed out that as the signing of the agreement is imminent according to the news agencies, Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi will invite his colleagues, foreign and economic ministers, to attend the two above-mentioned meetings in Baghdad in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions. The Iraqi foreign minister will notify the ministers concerned about the dates of these two meetings. The under secretary handed an official memo to the heads of the diplomatic missions in this regard.

In another development, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi sent a message to this effect to Arab League Secretary General Dr Mahmud Riyad, asking him to convey this information to the Arab countries that attended the Baghdad summit conference.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES RALLY ON TEACHER'S DAY

JN201023 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn attended the celebration that was held this morning in the Palace of Culture on the occasion of teacher's day.

In his speech, His Majesty King Husayn said: Our Arab homeland is now facing a difficult test and should pass it successfully in order to protect its future and fate. He continued: Our pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist onslaught and the Israeli expansion during past years was characterized by a unity of Arab feeling and a unified stand in confrontation and in joint defense of Arab rights. He noted: The next few days will bring, for the first time, the departure of an important Arab country from the confrontation front and the conclusion of a separate settlement treaty with the occupation enemy.

His majesty said: We in Jordan, supported by the feelings of the entire Arab nation, are not opposed to a comprehensive and just solution that would guarantee the rights and would establish peace based on right. However, the just settlement can never be divided. His majesty asserted that Arab rights are an integral part of such a settlement.

PRESS: POSITION UNCHANGED AFTER BRZEZINSKI VISIT

JN190720 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Moderate-Extremist Jordan," AR-RA'Y says in its editorial: The adviser to the U.S. President on national security affairs came to Amman yesterday and met with King Husayn at the time of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement to sign a separate treaty.

Following the signing of the two Camp David agreements, the U.S. secretary of state came to Amman. The roving U.S. ambassador for the Middle East also visited Amman. They both met with King Husayn.

Jordan's stand at all these meetings has not changed. This is because it is a principled and national stand, a stand that is not based on circumstances or reactions and therefore is not affected by policies of temptation or intimidation. We would not be departing from the truth if we say that the Palestinian cause has always been and still is a matter of life or death for Jordan. Such a cause cannot be open to bargaining or bartering.

AR-RA'Y adds: What the United States and Egypt--and others who support a separate solution at the expense of the Palestinian cause--should understand is that Jordan does not have the right to dispose of a single grain of Palestinian soil or bargain over the rights of the Palestinian people. If the United States fears threats to its interests in the Arab east from external dangers, then we say that the states of the Arab east have known how to defend their survival during the past 3 decades during which Washington has stood on the side of the Zionist racist entity in its wars of aggression against the Arab world. We do not need false justifications for shackling ourselves with American chains so that Israel can slay us like sheep.

In conclusion AR-RA'Y asserts: We are advocates of peace and seekers of peace. We want a comprehensive peace based on justice, a peace that restores the lands and the rights to their rightful owners. We shall continue to work for the achievement of such a peace, a simple peace that is understood by the rest of the human race.

It is true that Jordan does not have the power to impose a just and comprehensive peace in the area, but it has sufficient strength and freedom of will to say no to half solutions that are founded on the ruins of the Palestinian homeland and of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

AD-DUSTUR writes: Arab and foreign circles have followed Dr Brzezinski's visit to Riyadh and Amman with a great deal of interest, especially as it came days before the time set for the signing of the separate peace between Egypt and Israel in Washington.

In the view of American observers, the aim of this visit was to "neutralize" the stands of both Jordan and Saudi Arabia toward the treaty, following the failure of U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown to "market" it in the two countries during his tour of the area a few weeks ago.

AD-DUSTUR adds: No one can be neutral toward his cause, present, future and destiny or toward the developments related to these essential considerations.

It should be remembered that "commitment to the cause" is commitment to real peace in the area, a peace that cannot be achieved except on the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement that is based on withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination freely. No doubt Dr Brzezinski had this clear concept confirmed to him during his talks in Amman yesterday.

In conclusion AD-DUSTUR says: Washington would do well to understand at an early stage that the "pledge" to make others join the Cairo-Tel Aviv axis, or to bless it, or to watch and stay still, is within the realm of the impossible. It would be much better if all international efforts are united to establish a genuine peace in the area, under an international umbrella and in accordance with UN resolutions.

AR-RA'Y ON ARAB MOVE TO THWART PEACE TREATY

JN200643 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Damascus--It has been learned from a well-informed source that the Arab countries will conduct a wide-scale move within the next few days to confront the consequences of the separate peace treaty. It has been agreed to carry out this step on both the Arab and international levels in the wake of the contacts that are underway among the various Arab sides for the purpose of confronting the peace treaty and the U.S. pressures. It has also been learned that the next move and the current contacts are aimed at confronting all eventualities by means of a unified Arab stand based on the Baghdad summit conference resolutions.

Informed sources have confirmed that Syria and the other Arab sides completely reject the conditions and objectives couched in the treaty to be signed soon between Egypt and Israel.

GOVERNMENT WILL ABIDE BY BAGHDAD SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

NC191000 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Mar 79 p 2 NC

[Excerpt] A ministerial source has stated that Lebanon will abide by the Baghdad summit conference resolutions which will be implemented against Egypt even if some of the moderate states refuse to abide by them, but Lebanon will not take part in any information campaign.

The source did not reveal whether the resolutions will be implemented in stages or all at once. Nor did it reveal whether each country will be given the freedom to decide on this independently on the basis of self-interest or whether the implementation of the resolutions as a whole or in part, or all at one time or in stages, will take place simultaneously in all the Arab states which took part in the Baghdad summit conference and supported the resolutions which the conference adopted.

Informed sources say that should the proposed Arab foreign ministers' conference be held, it will discuss this subject and will decide how the Baghdad summit resolutions should be implemented.

SAUDI ARABIA POSTPONES WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES

NC181731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Saudi Arabia has postponed the withdrawal of its forces that are serving within the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon until 24 March.

In a statement made this evening, a responsible ADF source stated that as a result of the contacts held with Saudi Arabia's military command, it has been decided to postpone the withdrawal of the Saudi contingent until Saturday, 24 March, in accordance with a prearranged plan.

This new Saudi position will enable the state, in cooperation with the internal security forces, to station the Lebanese Army in the posts previously occupied by the Saudi forces.

Internal Security Forces Replacement

NC181342 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Security measures aimed at filling the security vacuum created by the withdrawal of the Saudi contingent and at bringing about stability were approved by the meeting held at the Presidential Palace in Ba'abda and chaired by President Ilyas Sarkis.

It has been learned that arrangements have been made to station internal security forces in the posts which will be evacuated by the Saudi contingent. The internal security forces will remain in these posts in order to allow for the formation of a Lebanese contingent which will eventually take over these posts.

Meanwhile, the Saudi elements are still in their posts awaiting the planes that are to be sent from Riyadh. These planes will transport the Saudi contingent.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS HOLDS CONTACTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC162102 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening held a series of contacts with the Arab Deterrent Forces command and with Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman to remedy the security situation following the tension which prevailed in some quarters of the capital this afternoon. Prime Minister al-Huss instructed the quarters concerned to begin work immediately to contain the incident and prevent it from spreading further.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman held a series of contacts with the ADF command and with the internal security forces and gave instructions on the need to contain the clashes and prevent them from spreading to other areas. Interior Minister Salman is still in constant touch with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and is keeping him informed about the situation. Meanwhile, Prime Minister al-Huss received a telephone call this afternoon from the ADF commander, Col Sami al-Khatib, who returned from Damascus today after meeting with Syrian officials. Colonel al-Khatib will call on the prime minister at the Ministry of Information tomorrow morning.

AL-HUSS SPEAKS AT JUNBLATT ANNIVERSARY RALLY

NC161351 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 79 NC

[16 March speech by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at a rally marking the second anniversary of the death of Kamal Junblatt, former leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, presumably in Beirut--recorded]

[Excerpts] Two years have passed since the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt. In what state were we when he left us and in what state are we today on his anniversary? I think that if he could have had the choice to live these past 2 years, he would have chosen not to.

The face of the issue has changed. The crisis remains. Slogans have replaced slogans, and the crisis continues. Roles, alliances and links have changed, but the atmosphere of estrangement, hostility and separation between the parties to the conflict continues to prevail, and the crisis continues.

Two years ago we had begun to emerge from the crisis, our hearts full of confidence and our moves hopeful. We moved to settle the disrupted relations between employers and employees, between landlords and tenants, and between debtors and creditors. We began drawing up plans and making studies so as to rebuild what had been destroyed in the madness of war.

All our efforts clashed with the reality of political divisions and their effect on security affairs, and the crisis persisted. Two years ago we were in factions. Some savored the joys of triumph without really being triumphant. Others slumped as if defeated without actually being defeated. Some refrained from dialog out of arrogance while others refrained from dialog out of weakness. Everyone held on to his weapons and began strengthening his military power, as if the 2-year war had not been a good enough lesson.

Two years ago we were in factions. We still are although the slogans and issues have changed, and although the comrades of the present are not the comrades of the past. If we continue in this vanity, who knows what will become of our cause, our slogans and alliances.

Two years ago we had hope, confidence and relaxation. Now it appears as if our fate depends on a bridge, a tower, or a bend. We are letting our future be shaped by other states and leaders in negotiations on which our opinion is not sought, in which hardly a word is said about us and of which we (?suffer) the negative effects. In the past 2 years the Israeli enemy has shown its real face, even more than it did during the 2-year war. The Israeli enemy stormed the south, displaced its valiant people, thrust himself on the border road and imposed a status quo of concealed occupation, hiding behir local armed groups--military and otherwise--who have broken the law, joined the ranks of the enemies of their homeland, and forsaken the state. So the state has disavowed their actions and broken its link with them.

Two years ago we were emerging from the dirty state of war. Now we live in a turmoil of security chaos. In the name of patriotism, crimes such as kidnaping, looting, sniping, and all kinds of violations are being committed. Isn't it high time we realized that the cause of Lebanon is one and the same, that it is a cause of destiny and existence, and that the road to salvation is the road of detente to unite the national will and bring the parties together in one mold--the mold of commitment to Lebanon, its sovereignty, and Arabism, as well as to the principles of justice, equality, and freedom and dignity of man? I hope that the great achievement made in passing the national defense bill will open the right door to the desired detente. It is indeed an important step toward victory over bitter reality.

LEBANESE CP ISSUES STATEMENT ON MIDEAST ACCORD

NC1920Z8 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Mar 79 p 4 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party circulated a statement last night in which it defined "the bases of the progressive pan-Arab confrontation of the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat plot" as:

The adoption of a decisive stand against U.S. imperialism by breaking off relations with the United States; nationalizing its assets, companies and capital; cutting off oil supplies; withdrawing Arab funds from U.S. banks; and destroying the U.S. interests throughout the Arab homeland; the affirmation of the all-out Arab rejection of the capitulationist-liquidationist-traitorous solution; the immediate and decisive application of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions; the declaration of the unity between Syria and Iraq; the consolidation of the role of the steadfastness and resistance front; and the declaration of a decisive answer to the plans for exploding the Lebanese arena...with the support of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance; the organization of the broadest popular campaign against the ugly and direct U.S. interference in the Yemeni arena; the promotion of relations among the nationalist, progressive and honest pan-Arab forces to the level of the solid front alliance; the consolidation of the unity of the revolutionary, progressive and nationalist forces within each Arab country; the declaration that our Arab battle against the plots is an integral part of the all-out world battle against U.S. imperialism and its allies; and the consolidation of the sincere alliance in struggle with the Socialist bloc, led by the Soviet Union.

BULGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN181338 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Gancho Ganev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and rector of the Academy for Social Sciences and Social Management, arrived in Damascus at noon today at the head of a delegation on a weeklong visit to Syria.

In a statement to SANA, the Bulgarian guest expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria. He said the visit aims at holding talks with the comrade officials in the Ba'th Party on promoting relations between the two parties in the two friendly countries.

BA'TH OFFICIAL MEETS WITH INDIAN, CSSR, YUGOSLAV ENVOYS

JN191714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The Indian ambassador to Syria has stressed that the current agreements between Israel, Egypt and the United States are a step in the wrong direction toward a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue. He stressed that peace cannot be achieved in this area without the total withdrawal of the aggressive forces and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights under the leadership of the PLO.

The ambassador said this during a meeting today with Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the foreign relations office.

Comrade Sayyagh also received the Czechoslovak and Yugoslav ambassadors in Damascus. The discussions dealt with current events in the area. The Yugoslav ambassador confirmed his country's stand toward a just and comprehensive peace based on total withdrawal and guaranteeing the Palestinians their legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO.

EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN SYRIA CONDEMN AS-SADAT'S POLICY

JN192123 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 19 March--The General Federation of Students of the Arab Republic of Egypt--Damascus Branch--issued a statement today calling on the Arab nationalist and progressive forces to embark on a struggle and express solidarity with the masses of the Arab people of Egypt to topple the line of treason and capitulation and to abort the plot being concocted against the Arab nation.

The statement calls for toppling the treasonous ruling regime in Egypt, purging Egypt from the capitulationists and traitors, and tearing up the Camp David papers and all the papers of treason and concessions made by As-Sadat.

The statement points out that As-Sadat's line and maneuvers and his tactics of repression will not obscure the vision of the Arab people of Egypt or undermine their struggle and heroism because they are capable of toppling the ruling regime of treason in Egypt and striking at the imperialist and Zionist interests.

The statement appeals to the forces of national liberation and peace in the world to side with the masses of the Arab people and their just cause.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTER ON YEMENI SITUATION

LD182110 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 79 LD

[Text] President of the republic and FLN Secretary General Chadli Benjedid at noon today received at the Presidency Mr Abdelaziz Boutaflika, member of the Political Bureau and minister-adviser to the president. Mr Boutaflika reported to the president on his mission for implementing the resolutions of the emergency meeting of the recent Arab ministers in Kuwait in connection with the Yemeni issue. He also reported on his contacts with Yemeni officials both in the south and the north, the results achieved, and in particular the ceasefire and the ending of the propaganda campaigns between the two countries. He also reported on the withdrawal of forces and the achievement of political dialog at the summit level between the presidents of the two Yemens, on the basis of the Cairo agreements and Tripoli declaration, and the outcome of the work of the joint committees for the realization of unity.

FLN POLITICAL BUREAU DEFENDS SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO

LD172000 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The FLN Political Bureau met this morning under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general. The Political Bureau discussed Algeria's international relations, and in particular the recent developments in the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb region. The bureau also studied the recent stands adopted by the highest official levels in Morocco concerning the Western Sahara and in particular threats of aggression against Algeria and threats to violate the sanctity of its national soil.

The Political Bureau stressed that the Western Sahara issue is a struggle between the Saharan people and those who have invaded their territories; there can be no solution to this struggle except by political means.

In this respect, the Political Bureau again stressed that Algeria, when supporting the self-determination principle with regard to the Saharan people and the POLISARIO's struggle, is shouldering its natural responsibilities, which are represented in its support for national liberation movements that are struggling for their legal right to freedom and independence.

The bureau recalled the speech made by President Bendjedid on 15 March 1979 in Bechar, and it warned the Moroccan leaders against the consequences of violating the sanctity of Algeria's national soil; it also underlined the determination of the political leadership and the whole nation to mobilize all means so as to foil the policy of adventures which have bad consequences.

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES IN ALGIERS 17 MARCH

LD171322 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived today in Algiers. He was welcomed by brother Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Council of the Revolution and party coordinator.

Meets Bendjedid, Departs

LD172058 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] President of the republic and FLN Secretary General Chadli Bendjedid received at the Presidency today Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Revolution Command of the Socialist Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriyah, who carried a letter from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. Present at the meeting were Mohamed Salal Yahiaoui, member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator, and Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

Staff Maj Jallud left Algiers this evening and was seen off by member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator Yahiaoui, and by the Libyan ambassador.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CHAD'S MALLOUM

LD180016 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli 17 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution, received a message from the Chad President Felix Malloum following the conclusion of the Chad reconciliation conference held at Kano in Nigeria, in which he expressed his appreciation for the efforts and effective participation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah delegation in Kano's conference. In his message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Malloum said that a settlement was reached, thanks to the efforts made by the Libyan Arab delegation, for a sound basis for understanding in Chad. Malloum's message comes after reaching an accord in the Kano conference, in which the Jamahiriyah and political forces in Chad participated. The agreement stipulates a cease-fire in Chad, the disarmament of Ndjamena, and withdrawal of forces 100 kilometers from the capital.

The accord also stipulates the formation of a committee for controlling the cease-fire, which includes the Jamahiriyah and participant African countries in the Kano conference, as well as the formation of a neutral force to undertake the maintenance of peace and stability during the transitional period, and disolution of existing organizations in Chad: the republic's Presidency and government, the Defence and Security Council, the National Union's Council and the formation of a transitional government including representatives from all Chad parties. The accords also stipulate the issuing of a general pardon which includes all political prisoners, hostages and exiles. Meanwhile, political observers affirm that these accords will not completely solve problems in Chad. They also believe that the popular forces in Chad will free themselves the slavery of authority [as heard].

AFRIQUE-ASIE INTERVIEWS AL-QADHDHAFI ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

LD192028 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Paris, March 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--In an interview with AFRIQUE-ASIE magazine published today, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great First of September Revolution, called upon France to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Chad and put an end to its occupation there. France, he said, should withdraw her forces from Chad and let the Chadian people solve their own problems.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed that there were no Libyan forces inside Chad and added: "It is regrettable that French soldiers should die while attempting to stop the victory of the Chadian revolution against the ruling regime and the French forces behind it, a victory which I foresee as inevitable."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi asked: "What would happen if one of the other parties called for military intervention from an ally?"

Referring to the many reports on the Jamahiriyah's support for the revolution in Chad, he said: "In the wake of the 1st of September Revolution, we have assisted the revolution in Chad which represents a nation rebelling against the racism of fascist masters and those seeking to control and exploit the country's natural resources for the interests of neo-colonialism." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained the basis of this revolution, saying that it is an armed struggle by the oppressed against exploitation, by the poor against the rich, and by slaves against masters.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi spoke of the intensive efforts exerted by the Jamahiriyah to bring about peace and a constructive and permanent solution to Chad based on respect for all the rights and duties of all parties involved. He said: "This peace has not been achieved due to the maneuvres of those eager to suppress the revolution in order to safeguard their control over the country. Hence the collaboration between Habre and Malloum. We were quite sure then that they would disagree and end up by destroying each other; for they do not represent the Chadian people and are of no value inside FROLINAT which controls most of the country.

On the Aozou issue, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that Aozou has always been a Libyan territory even during the monarchy. Giving historical facts to this effect, he said that when the Organization of African Unity had decided to respect the borders drawn up by colonialists, the dispute between France and Italy concerning the Libyan-Chadian borders remained unresolved. "Maps, documents and agreements", he added, "were submitted to the Chadian territories. However we knew that the problem was overcome." [sentence as received]

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that his country respected its present borders with Chad. He said: "We shall reach a peaceful solution to the border dispute concerning Aozou, once a popular and stable government is formed in Chad. I am fully confident that a solution will be found in keeping with the interests of our people, for there is no problem without a solution between us."

The leader of the Great First of September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, answered a question on the conflict between China and Vietnam. He said: "This is a very serious matter that threatens stability and world peace. We are afraid," he added, "the Vietnamese-Chinese war will result in a war between China and Russia and consequently an international confrontation. Therefore, the countries of the Third World should do their best to avoid such a catastrophe."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi then expressed his regret for this conflict and said: "It is a great tragedy to see the Indo-Chinese countries which achieved a historic victory against imperialism, enter into a marginal conflict amongst each other.

"The Jamahiriyah opposed such a conflict and sent envoys to Vietnam and China in order to help in putting an end to the war in search for a solution through negotiations."

On how the non-aligned countries can help to stop such a conflict, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "We should not talk about regimes and governments, but of people who should abolish all causes of tension which are destructive to their economic, political, social and cultural progress." He affirmed that these peoples were not responsible for war when they were under the yoke of dictatorship, racism, colonialism and imperialism. He said these peoples had the right of carrying arms and defending their absolute rights. Such situations occurred in Ethiopia against Haile Selassie's dictatorial rule, in Iran against the hireling shah's rule, in Libya against bygone monarchic rule and foreign bases. The Palestinian people also rebelled against Zionist imperialism and the African people against racism in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The leader of the Great First of September Revolution said there was no choice for peoples of the world but to carry arms to defend their legitimate rights. He said: "Some peoples consider us as terrorists, but our political faith as revolutionaries and Muslims makes us desirous or peace."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi clarified the meaning of terrorism. He said: "To us, terrorism is the invasion of free lands. It is the possession of atomic bombs, military bases, rockets, naval fleets. It is the use of a policy where famine is systematically effected, and in which mercenaries are used against free peoples."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "We say yes to a war of liberation which rids us from imperialism, racism, Zionism and their agents. We say no to all evil, oppressive forces which want to impose themselves upon us with the above-mentioned mentality."

Talking of Libyan Arab-American relations, he said: "We have good relations with the American people who received our people's delegation with exceeding warmth. As for the American Government, this is another matter. The American Government could not understand the Arab cause. It also has to take into consideration of so many pressures and currents of thought which have rendered it incapable of moving in the right direction." The revolution's leader gave an example of his views by pointing to the American Government's move of blocking the Boeing airplanes which had been paid for by the Jamahiriyah some years ago. He said: "The American Government has not only refused to send these planes; they have also refused to refund our payments for the aircraft...Is this an act to be committed by a great power or is it highway robbery, I ask you?"

He added: "The American Government should send us the planes which we purchased or return our money, plus the interest it has accumulated."

On military concentrations which the defeated Egyptian president ordered to be deployed on the Jamahiriyah's eastern borders, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "I do not rule out the defeated president's committing aggression against the Jamahiriyah." He said that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah does not fear such aggression, because there is a vast difference between a regular army and an armed people. The regular army can be encircled and defeated...This cannot happen in the case of an armed people."

The leader of the Great First of September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, ended his interview with AFRIQUE-ASIE by saying that the Jamahiriyah will be an open grave for all aggressors.

REPORT ON JALLUD'S STATEMENT ON ALGIERS TALKS

LD181522 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 18 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Mar 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud returned to Tripoli yesterday evening after concluding a short visit to Algeria.

Present at the farewell of Major Jallud in Algiers' Dar El Beida Airport was Politburo member and Algerian National Liberation Front party coordinator, Colonel Mohamed Salal Yahiaoui, and the Jamahiriyah's ambassador to Algeria.

Upon his arrival from Algiers, Staff Major Jallud made a statement to newsmen. He said his visit came within the context of brotherly relations binding both revolutions...the Great First of September and Algerian Revolutions. This meeting, he said, is necessitated by the current extraordinary circumstances which the Arab nation is experiencing.

He said the Great First of September and Algerian Revolutions represent the progressive and revolutionary assets of the Arab nation. The Arab masses, he said, look up to these two revolutions for guidance after the shameful accord between the defeated Egyptian president and the Zionists concluded under American imperialist pressure, incentive and (?bribery).

He said: "In order that these treasonous accords become a reality, the conspirators will try to strike revolutionary movements, because they represent the forces capable of foiling this conspiracy..."

He added: "Revolutionary and progressive forces in the Arab world should not recoil, but should conduct quick and wide-ranging contacts amongst themselves, because they are the pulsating forces of the Arab nation. It is within this context, therefore, that our two allied revolutions meet..."

Major Jallud said: "Colonialism will attempt to strike revolutionary centers in the Arab nation through the escalation of Arab reaction's conspiratorial role. This it will attempt as a means of diverting the attention of these revolutionary forces from their progressive role of leadership of the Arab masses and to block them from fulfilling their patriotic role of exposing colonialism and reaction's conspiratorial schemes against the future and existence of the Arab nation."

He added: "We should, as revolutionary Arabs, expose this conspiracy, and our revolutionary forces should gain the initiative and proceed on all fronts to crush it..." "Revolutionary forces," he said, "are the sharp edge and final word in determining our fateful causes..."

Major Jallud said: "If these revolutionary forces and Arab masses move, then they will be able to crush all conspiracies against them and trample over all capitulationist and treasonous accords..."

Major Jallud said: "If everyone was satisfied with mere condemnations and protests printed in newspapers or in statements and communiques to that effect, our nation will not forgive us and history will show no mercy...We, as revolutionary forces, are required to act. Therefore, we have hastened contact with our closest allies and brethren in the Algerian revolution..."

Major Jallud also made a statement before leaving Algiers in which he said that the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, and the colonialist-reactionary attack to which the Arab region is being subjected, and the probably treasonous capitulation treaty were the subjects discussed with President Chadli Bendjedid and others. He said: "These subjects point to the necessity of unifying the efforts of both revolutions--the Great First of September and Algerian Revolutions--so that we are able to perform our allocated role of defending our existence and the Arab nation. How could both revolutions confront reactionary provocations whether in the Maghreb, or those committed by Zionism in cooperation with As-Sadat? How could we confront the challenge [word indistinct] by American colonialism against the will of the Arab nation?"

Major Jallud clarified: "The means which are capable of intensifying the efforts of progressive and revolutionary forces in the Arab nation and unify them so that they would be capable of defending their existence and gains...These above topics were discussed. Also discussed was the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's assumption of its role in foiling the treasonous, capitulationist conspiracy, and the necessity of awakening the Arab conscience..."

Ending his statement, Major Jallud called on all Arab individuals and regimes which care for their religion, nation and Arab patriotism, to fulfill their roles by implementing the resolutions of the steadfastness conferences in Tripoli, Algiers and Damascus, and the Baghdad summit conference.

UNDER SECRETARY SEES SYRIAN, ALGERIAN, PDRY, PLO ENVOYS

LD200932 Tripoli JANA in English 0841 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

["Foreign Secretariat Official Receives Steadfastness and Confrontation Ambassadors"--JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Mar 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The assistant under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat held a meeting yesterday with the head of the liaison office of the Syrian Arab Republic with the (?Jamahiriyah), the Algerian ambassador, the ambassador of Yemen Democratic Republic and PLO representative in Tripoli.

The meeting which was attended by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Secretariat dealt with the coordination of the stands of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states and the unification of their efforts to face the critical stage through which the Arab nation is passing and confront the imperialist Zionist conspiracy plotted at present to liquidate the Palestinian cause. This conspiracy is embodied in the capitulatory treaty which the defeated Egyptian president will sign with the Zionist enemy in the coming days. The meeting stressed the necessity for launching a joint intensive action by the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front against the imperialist Zionist conspiracy which aims at liquidating the Palestinian cause and threatening the existence of the Arab nation.

JANA DISMISSES NUMAYRI ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT

LD190913 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 19 March--In an interview with the Arabic language newspaper AL-MUSTAQBAL, which is published in Paris, the president of the Sudanese regime uttered the sort of statements made by him and by weak people like him.

He alleged that there are groups receiving training in Libya to carry out what he called an invasion operation against some Arab regimes, including his own.

We in Libya do not pay attention to such utterances and will attach no importance to them, since the one making them has no importance in our eyes and is not on a level which deserves a reply.

SFRY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI FOR TALKS

LD162238 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and Chairman of the Committee on Cooperation with Developing Countries in Yugoslavia Mr Foko Edraga Svebinc arrived in Tripoli this afternoon at the head of a delegation, on a visit to the Jamahiriyah due to last several days.

During the visit Mr Svebinc will take part in the meetings of the Yugoslav-Libyan Arab joint committee on economic, technical and scientific cooperation.

The Yugoslav guest and his delegation were received at Tripoli International Airport by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning Mr Musa abu Furaywah, a number of officials at the Secretariat, a representative from the Protocol Department at the Foreign Secretariat and the Yugoslav ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

Mr. Svebinc gave a statement to our correspondent expressing his and his delegation's pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah and finding the facts about the tremendous progress achieved by the Great First of September Revolution in the various fields. He also praised the relations and the close friendship existing between the Jamhiriyah and Yugoslavia.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAVES AFTER TALKS

LD171924 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Mar 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Romanian vice premier, Mr Ion Patan, left Tripoli this morning after concluding a several day visit to the Jamahiriyah in which he held talks with specialists on bilateral relations and means of bolstering them.

Present at the Romanian vice premier's farewell in Tripoli International Airport were Oil Secretary Mr 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, representatives from the European and protocol sections in the Foreign Secretariat, and the Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

FUNDS TRANSFERRED FOR SUPPORT OF SYRIA, JORDAN

LD171422 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] To implement the decisions of the basic popular congresses in their third ordinary session for 1979, which provide for support of Syria and Jordan, the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for the Treasury recently transferred sums from the support allocations to Syria and Jordan.

An official source at the General People's Committee for the Treasury has stated that the sums have already been transferred according to the decisions of the basic popular congress regarding support for the two sister countries to be able to face the challenges and intrigues being hatched against the Arab nation by American imperialism and the Zionist enemy, in alliance with the defeated Egyptian president.

JANA CITES FRENCH MAGAZINE ON EGYPT'S PLANNED AGGRESSION

LD191544 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 18 Mar 79 LD

["Defeated President Plans Aggression Against the Jamahiriyah"--JANA headline]

[Text] Paris, March 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The French magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE said that the defeated president of Egypt had recently held a meeting with his deputy, Husni Mubarak, and his minister of defence, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in order to plan an aggression against the Jamahiriyah. A week prior to his meeting, the magazine said, the Egyptian defence minister made several inspection visits to the Egyptian borders with the Jamahiriyah to observe the Egyptian military build up there. This new Egyptian build up, AFRIQUE-ASIE pointed out, is much larger than the one of the 1977 summer when the defeated Egyptian president gave orders to his air force to bombard Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Base and other neighboruing areas on the Jamahiriyah borders.

Quoting the B.B.C. correspondent in the Egyptian capital, the magazine said that squadrons of Egyptian fighters reinforced by 600 tanks will stay in that area permanently. Egyptian forces on the Jamahiriyah's border, the magazine said, were transferred from the front line with the (Israeli) enemy, following the defeat of the Egyptian president.

SUDAN

OIL REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED IN SOUTHWEST

LD190947 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 19 March--In a statement published here today, the Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Sharif at-Tuhami has declared that oil has been discovered in southwestern Sudan but its commercial value has not yet been verified.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN published today, the minister denied reports that "Sudan is floating on a lake of oil." He added that his country plans to survey the area and that "the preliminary signs call for optimism."

The minister said that there is wide scope for Arab capital investment in Sudan and that there are numerous industrial projects such as cement, fertilizers, building construction and mining which could be exploited. These projects lack only funds, he added.

He disclosed that Kuwait is one of the biggest investors in Sudan but there is still scope for more Kuwait investment.

CABINET SESSION CONTINUES; DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON NAMED

TA191423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet session is still underway in Jerusalem and the discussion on the peace treaty with Egypt has not been concluded, although it has already been decided who will be in our delegation to go to the signing ceremony in Washington. The prime minister and his wife will be accompanied by the members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, the Knesset speaker and MK's Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

The delegation will leave for Washington on Friday on a special plane. The prime minister's adviser, Brig Gen Efrayin Poran, and spokesman Dan Patir will leave for Washington tomorrow morning to help with the preparations for the ceremony.

In the absence of the prime minister, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer will substitute for him. Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin is among those who will go to Washington.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that, as far as is known at the moment, there will only be one signing ceremony--the one in Washington. The two other ceremonies mentioned--in Jerusalem and in Cairo--have been canceled.

Further Details

TA191820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] The bubbling issue at the Cabinet session was: when and how to discuss autonomy. On this issue there were arguments, tension and mutual criticism. Most of the ministers thought that the time was not right for making decisions on the autonomy issue: It is better to set up an 11-man committee to consolidate Israel's position for the discussions on autonomy. These discussions will begin soon--1 month after signing the peace treaty.

Minister Hayim Landau thought otherwise. His position today--and this was his position in the past as well--was that the Sinai should not be given back before the autonomy issue is concluded. Egypt is very interested in the peace treaty, Landau thinks. It is interested in the Sinai, it needs U.S. aid; one should take advantage of this fact and obtain gains in Judaea and Samaria before the Sinai is returned. However, Landau had no choice but to act as he did over the past year: In the course of past political debates, he voted against, and stayed in the minority. This happened again today.

One cannot hold a debate on autonomy and reach decisions on the eve of the signing of the peace treaty--this was the opinion of the prime minister, his deputy, Professor Yadin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman; who, although he is very far away across the ocean, added his vote from afar in favor of the peace treaty as it was laid down today on the Cabinet table. Many other ministers thought so as well. First--this is the opinion of those who object to a discussion and a decision on autonomy now--who knows how the United States and the Egyptians would interpret Cabinet decisions which would constitute a determination of position toward a discussion of autonomy even before the peace treaty is signed; and secondly; the discussion is to take at least 1 year, so how can one determine what autonomy would look like now?

Another argument put forward by the objectors is that a discussion of autonomy now is unnecessary; Israel has proposed a rather detailed plan, including 26 articles, so why should we detail even more now, before the signing of peace? This could be done in the 11-member committee which has been set up.

Debate Heated on Autonomy Issue

TA191833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Let us add to the issue of the vote in the Cabinet, and say that the MAFDAL representatives--Ministers Burg, Hammer and Abu-Hatzera--ultimately voted in favor of the peace treaty, following conversations with Prime Minister Begin, whereas Minister Ari'el Sharon, who until recently supported the peace agreement, voted against it today. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer adds:

[Schiffer--begin recording] Well, it has been some time since the Cabinet experienced a loud discussion such as the one that took place today during the debate on the nature of autonomy. The speech by the chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, was accompanied by loud interjections and biting remarks by some ministers, led by the prime minister.

Minister Sharon read to the ministers a document he had prepared for the discussion. There are no tricks concerning the country's vital questions; one must tell the truth, Ari'el Sharon said, and that is why he asked for a debate on autonomy. I quote from the document: The decision to evacuate the Sinai settlement has caused a deep shock to the public, especially among settlement circles. It is necessary today, Sharon added, to come and say to the people of Israel, and especially to the settlement people, what is meant and what is the limit of the Israeli withdrawal. The act of signing the peace treaty, which may turn out to be a historic turning point, must be accompanied by an answer to a series of questions pertaining to our very existence.

To repeat, Sharon's words were cut off by interjections. The prime minister said: Don't preach here. Minister Hayim Landau also joined this statement, even though he, too, voted against approving the peace treaty with Egypt. Minister Landau said that Israel and Egypt are already interpreting the peace treaty differently. Minister Landau recalled Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil's declaration at the end of last week, when he said that in the future East Jerusalem will once again be an Arab city. Minister Landau asked: Why does the Cabinet not react to this?

To sum up the debate on the nature of autonomy, Minister Sharon proposed that the ministerial committee which will be set up to prepare the proposals in anticipation of the negotiations on the autonomy arrangements will discuss things in accordance with the principles raised by the MAFDAL ministers and himself. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan remarked on the spot: There are also additional principles, and that is why only a general decision on the issue must be accepted. Minister Ari'el Sharon thus found himself in the minority in the Cabinet. In his opinion, the Cabinet has avoided a discussion on the autonomy issue. It could be gathered from his associates that he is pointing an accusing finger at the prime minister.

The MAFDAL ministers had apparently reached an agreement with Mr Begin prior to the Cabinet session. This enabled them to raise their hand in favor of the peace treaty. The MAFDAL demanded during the Cabinet session that the Cabinet adopt its principles about autonomy. Minister Zevulun Hammer told me after the Cabinet session: We are in possession of promises made by the prime minister which will insure future acceptance of our opinion concerning autonomy.

The question now being asked is how Minister Sharon will vote in the Knesset the day after tomorrow, when the treaty is brought for approval. Thus far Minister Sharon has refused to answer this question.

WEIZMAN ORDERS IDF TO START SINAI WITHDRAWAL 25 MARCH

TA192109 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The defense minister and his deputy have instructed the chief of staff to get the IDF ready to start withdrawing from the Sinai on Sunday. At the same time, organization to commence infrastructure work in the Negev is getting underway immediately. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir:

[Nir] The early warning submitted to the chief of staff by the defense minister and his deputy means that if no changes occur the IDF will start the first stage of the withdrawal operation from the Sinai on Sunday. In the following days, the army authorities will most probably have to prepare callup orders for those reserve troops needed to carry out the evacuation operation. The reference is to operators of engineering and mechanical equipment, transportation teams and other professionals.

The urgent need now is to send invitations to contractors according to the rules which have almost been worked out. The work resulting from the first stage of the withdrawal will be carried out by Israeli contractors. As for the infrastructure work in the Negev, in the following weeks the directors general committee dealing with this issue will decide which part of the work will be done by Israeli companies and which part will be done by foreign companies. In the meantime, it is clear that two airfields in the Negev will be built by the United States, perhaps with the help of Israeli subcontractors. A U.S. Pentagon team will arrive in Israel over the weekend in order to prepare the contracts and the specifications for this work. The third airfield in the Negev will be built by Israel.

Regarding the carrying out of other work--such as paving roads, construction of bases, emergency depots and different installations--the directors general committee will decide on this according to the prime minister's instructions. That is to say, the employment of Israeli construction companies in the Negev should not affect the scope of construction in Judaea and Samaria.

Senior defense elements point out that the nation is able to carry out infrastructure work in the Negev during the next year worth 12 billion Israeli pounds. This is a small percentage of the overall work, which will amount to $8 billion during the 3 years of the withdrawal--that is, we should get ready to double our capability to carry out work in the Negev in the course of the next year.

[Announcer] Public works contractors in Israel are protesting the granting of work to erect two airfields in the Negev to American companies.

In a cable sent by the contractors' union to the defense minister and the economic minister they said this was an attitude of technological defeatism and a heavy blow to the civil engineering profession in Israel. The heads of the contractors' union claim that the granting of work to foreign companies is not to Israel's economic benefit as they are able to carry out this work efficiently.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN, U.S. DELEGATIONS MEET IN WASHINGTON

TA192025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. legal experts met this evening in Washington and an Israeli spokesman said that they are dealing with the finishing touches to the peace treaty and its appendixes.

Prior to that, U.S. officials said that full agreement between 'Ezer Weizman and his counterpart Kamal Hasan 'Ali has not yet been reached. The bone of contention is over two major points: the timing of the Israeli withdrawal from Al-'Arish and questions pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai oilfields. However, the U.S. officials emphasized that these difficulties cannot prevent the signing of the peace treaty on schedule in a week.

Weizman Comments on Talks

TA200643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Good morning. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is returning to Israel today at the end of 4 days of talks in Washington with his counterparts from the United States and Egypt about agreements connected with the IDF withdrawal from Sinai. While the agreement with the United States has already been signed, there are still differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt on the issue of the date of the evacuation of the oilfields in Sinai and this is what is holding up the signing of the military appendix to the peace treaty. Before he left the United States, our correspondent Eli Nissan spoke with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, can you tell me about the agreement achieved in your talks with the U.S. secretary of defense?

[Answer] Those with the U.S. secretary of defense, certainly: the sum is $3 billion, part of which is a grant and part a loan. The smaller part is the grant, $8 million. Now, we also came to a very good agreement between the Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense over the issue of the exchange of know-how and the ability of Israeli industry to participate in competition for contracts for the U.S. defense establishment. [Words indistinct] was difficult because of laws and taxes which are intended to protect U.S. industry. This will be very important for us, not only for the security industry, but for many other industries. In addition to this, there was also agreement on types of equipment, quantities and times [presumably delivery] for the land, sea and air forces which include advancing [presumably delivery times] of the F-16 by nearly a year and a half.

[Question] And what about the bilateral talks you held here with the Egyptian war minister?

[Answer] The bilateral talks are still going on; he is on the ninth floor and I am on seventh floor of the same hotel [laughs] and I will soon be going to say goodby to him. Everything, in fact, is concluded apart from the issue of the oil fields which the Egyptians want us to evacuate earlier and we--there is a Cabinet decision that we will remain until the end of the 9 months before the IDF moves to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line. [sentence as heard] Major General Tamir and Mr Rosenne from the Foreign Ministry are remaining here and they will continue to see how the months can be cut down. I am sure that by the day the treaty is signed, Monday, the issue of the oil will also be clarified and will disappear.

[Question] Have you an agreement on the early evacuation of Al-'Arish?

[Answer] Yes, the conclusion is that 3 months from the date the agreement becomes valid, the IDF will evacuate Al-'Arish, the town and the airfields. [end recording]

MINISTER TAMIR: PROMISED U.S. AID TO ISRAEL NOT ENOUGH

TA191748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that Minister Shmu'el Tamir said at the Cabinet meeting today that U.S. promises on economic and military aid are not satisfactory. Thus, the document on the U.S. commitments undertaken as a result of the peace treaty with Egypt was not submitted to the Cabinet for approval. It is assumed that this issue will be finalized with the United States when the Israeli delegation arrives in Washington to sign the peace treaty.

Today, the members of the Israeli team appointed to formulate the document of U.S. commitments met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The team includes Ministers Dayan and Tamir, the legal adviser, Yitzhaq Zamir, and Director General of the Foreign Ministry Yosef Ciechanover.

ALINEMENT APPROVES PERES' ATTENDANCE AT TREATY SIGNING

TA191655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Alinement faction has approved by a large majority the participation of Shim'on Peres in the prime minister's delegation to the peace treaty signing ceremony in Washington. Several members claimed that Peres should not have accepted the invitation because of the expenses involved in his participation. However, their claims were rejected.

The party members who voted for accepting the invitation said that if the opposition leader had rejected the invitation it would have been interpreted as a negative political step in the United States, while in Israel it would have been interpreted as meaning the opposition could not rise above narrow party considerations.

The issue of MK Yitzhaq Rabin's participation was not discussed at all because he did not submit the issue to a vote by his colleagues in the party.

MINISTER LEVI READS LETTER ON AUTONOMY TO HERUT

TA192127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Minister David Levi tonight read to the members of the Herut Movement Center the formulation of the accompanying letter to the peace treaty dealing with the autonomy issue. The letter says that Egypt and Israel have agreed to begin negotiating on this issue within 1 month after exchanging the documents ratifying the peace treaty, in accordance with the peace framework agreed upon at Camp David, and that Jordan is invited to join the negotiations.

The Egyptian and Jordanian delegations could include Eretz Yisra'el Arabs from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or other Arabs from Eretz Yisra'el, as will be mutually agreed on. The purpose of the negotiations is to agree--before elections to the autonomy institutions--on the ways of establishing the elected self-rule authority, the definition of its authority and responsibility and other issues pertaining to it. If Jordan decides not to participate in the negotiations, these will be held by Israel and Egypt alone.

The two governments, the accompanying letter says, agree to negotiate constantly and in good faith in order to conclude the negotiations at the earliest possible date. They agree that the purpose of the negotiations is to set up the self-rule authority in the West Bank and Gaza in order to grant the Arab inhabitants full autonomy. They set themselves the goal to complete negotiations within 1 year, so that elections could take place as soon as possible after an agreement is reached between the parties.

The self-rule authority will be established and will convene within 1 month after it is elected, at which time the 5-year interim period will begin. The Israeli military government and the civilian administration will withdraw, to be replaced by the self-rule authority. Then there will be a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces, and a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces to well-defined security zones will take place.

Israel and Egypt confirm their intention to have the U.S. administration participate fully in all stages of the negotiations.

A postscript to the letter says that in each paragraph where the expression "the West Bank" appears, it is understood--and will be understood--by the Israeli Cabinet to be a reference to Judaea and Samaria.

So much for the official formulation of the accompanying letter on autonomy as read by Minister David Levi at the meeting of the Herut Movement Center.

MINISTER TAMIR COMMENTS ON PEACE TREATY, DMC DECISION

TA200718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Last night the Democratic Movement Council heard a political report from its three representatives in the Cabinet and recommended that the Knesset faction vote in favor of approving the agreements. Prof Yiga'el Yadin told our correspondent last night: I do not know if anyone who voted against them in the Cabinet ought to draw conclusions. That is a matter for themselves. I, Yadin said, voted in favor and I am not resigning from the Cabinet. Here is our correspondent Razi Barqay on last night's council deliberations:

Despite certain reservations, last night the Democratic Movement gave full backing to the government's peace program. There is no doubt that the Movement's seven Knesset members will raise their hands in favor of the agreement. The council members heard some explanations and an interim conclusion from Minister of Justice Shmu'el Tamir: [begin recording]

The matter of the target date is better than it was in view of a series of amendments. We can live with it. It will still bring us more problems. The issue of the exchange of ambassadors has been settled. Tying the 9 months withdrawal to definite dates is a significant concession on our part which, with other developments, we would not have made, but this was a price which it was fitting to pay for the agreement. I believe that the arrangement on the matter of the oil, with an Egyptian concession on all the talk about liaison officers in Gaza, has been solved in a manner which we can certainly live with. It is made up of a contractual Egyptian commitment to sell oil to Israel on conditions equal to those of any other country and a U.S. guarantee to supply all the oil the State of Israel will need for 15 years. [end recording]

PO'ALEY AGUDAT YISRA'EL MK TO VOTE AGAINST TREATY

TA191856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] This evening, the Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el Executive decided to instruct its representative in the Knesset, Rabbi Qalman Kahana, to vote against the peace treaty with Egypt tomorrow. Our correspondent Arye Yulius reports that the decision was adopted by a large majority after a stormy 5-hour discussion.

RABIN COMMENTS ON TREATY, AUTONOMY, DEFENSE PACT

TA161130 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 79 pp 28, 36 TA

[Interview with MK Yitzhaq Rabin by Dov Goldstein: "There Is No Chance that Israel and Egypt Will Achieve an Agreement on the Nature of Autonomy and It May Be That the End Result Will Be Another Interim Agreement"--interview given Tuesday evening, 13 Mar, after hearing Begin's announcement of upcoming peace treaty between Israel and Egypt--place not given]

[Excerpts] [Rabin] My feeling is that a most significant achievement has been gained in the relations between Israel and Egypt. This is an achievement that can serve as an opening for building a new set of relations between the two countries and peoples, but the road is still long and complicated until we reach the point where this opening will turn into the reality of permanent peace, even if only between Egypt and Israel.

Today I have no doubts--and I think that there is no reason to have any doubts--about the fact that As-Sadat is indeed adhering to this objective and will not deviate from it.

Israel regards the peace treaty with Egypt and the normalization of relations as something in its own right, which will not and must not be affected by developments which will occur or be prevented on other fronts.

[Question] If the Cabinet, at the demand of an appreciable number of its members, holds a debate on the nature of autonomy before signing the peace treaty with Egypt and formulates a decision on the questions involved in autonomy, will there be a danger that Egypt will go back on its willingness to sign the peace treaty?

[Answer] I know of no intention by the Government of Israel to demand a debate with the Egyptians or a clarification with the Americans over the nature of autonomy as a condition to Israel's signing the peace agreement with Egypt. The intention is that the Government of Israel should formulate a position on the debate with Egypt, Jordan and the inhabitants of the territories on autonomy, after the peace treaty is signed. Such a decision is designed to serve as a basis for negotiations on the foundation of autonomy and not to present new Israeli demands as a condition for the Israeli signature on the treaty with Egypt.

[Question] The Israeli position, if one is decided upon, will not, after all, be kept secret....

[Answer] Even if it is publicized as Israel's position before the debate on the nature of autonomy, I do not think that this will affect Egypt's position at this stage, before signing the peace treaty.

[Question] Do you believe there is a possibility or a chance that Egypt and Israel, even if Jordan and the Arabs of the territories insist on their refusal and do not join in the negotiations, will be able to reach an agreement on the nature of autonomy?

[Answer] No. I do not think that there is a chance of reaching an Egyptian-Israeli agreement on the format of the elections to the Palestinians' self-rule authority in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, on the authority of this body or on the nature of autonomy.

It is true that there are only two issues out of many in which the gap between the Israeli and Egyptian positions will be broad, deep and impossible to bridge. There is no Israeli Knesset or Cabinet which will agree that the Israeli settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza will be subordinate to Arab self-rule and the autonomy administration. In the same way it is unimaginable that Egypt will agree that the areas of Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza will be under Israeli rule and outside the rule of the Arab authority.

The second issue is: Even today, when we are maintaining full control in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, we are unable to fully prevent the organization of terrorist cells in the territories and attempts to carry out murder and terrorism against objectives in Israel. I cannot imagine that a government or Knesset in Israel will be able to agree that the responsibility for the prevention of actions by murderers should be placed in the hands of the Arab authority and a "strong Palestinian police force," as it was put in the Camp David agreements.

There is no doubt that the vigorous attempt by the Arab rejectionist front will be directed at focusing its activities, through the PLO, on increasing the terrorist actions against objectives in Israel to gain two objectives: First, directing international attention at the Palestinian problem, while demanding the establishment of an 'Arafatist state. In addition, carrying out broad terrorist actions against Israel will create an atmosphere which will not help the primary positive basis achieved with the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt: the hope of fostering a system of human relations between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples.

The rejectionist front and the PLO will increase their attempts and will not balk at any means to foil any chance of normalization in the relations between Israel and Egypt.

Therefore, Israel will not be able to give up full control over the complicated campaign to foil hostile organization in the territories and the prevention of terrorist actions, but there is no reason to assume that Egypt will agree to this Israeli control. These are sufficient examples of issues which cannot be settled and in which the gaps between Israel and Egypt cannot be bridged. There are enough other examples to prove that the chance of reaching an agreement with Egypt on the nature of autonomy and of the Palestinian authority is very small and possibly nonexistent.

[Question] How will the fact that it will not be possible to bridge these gaps affect the Israeli-Egyptian agreement and its chances of being realized and maintained?

[Answer] During the negotiations over autonomy which, according to the agreement, will begin about a month after the peace treaty is approved, enormous difficulties can be expected. Israel will be faced with the question of how to guarantee that the failure of the negotiations on the foundation of autonomy will not affect the process of normalization with Egypt.

It seems to me that Israel will have two basic options. The first is to reach an agreement with Egypt purely and simply concerning the foundation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip, on the assumption that such a move will permit continuation of the normalization of relations between the two countries. In Judaea and Samaria the current situation will remain as it is until the end of the 5-year transition period.

[Question] Will you agree to giving a "strong Palestinian police force" the responsibility for foiling hostile organizations in the Gaza Strip and preventing blows at Israel, or do you expect that Egypt will agree that Israel should do this with its forces?

[Answer] It is my assumption that Egypt will want and will be able to prevent terrorist actions against Israel by using the Palestinian police led by Egyptian officers and that a solution will be found to the problem of the few settlements in the south of the strip.

However, if no solution is found in the Gaza Strip, either, at the end of the year in which both sides promise to redouble their efforts to achieve an agreement, we will find ourselves in a position of disagreeing with Egypt on everything involving autonomy. This is the most reasonable and likely possibility; then the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel will face its first decisive test.

Egypt will have to decide, at the end of the first year, whether disagreement on the autonomy issue will lead to cancelling the normalization with Israel--with Israel still on the Ra's Muhammad-Al-'Arish line. If Egypt decides on this, it will cancel the various components of peace and normalization--that is: the borders between the two countries will be closed to passage of people and goods; the Egyptian ambassador, if he is already in Israel, will be recalled to Egypt; the Israeli ambassador will be asked to leave Egypt; there will be a freeze in the peace process. It is clear where these grave events would lead. At best, the cancellation of the state of war would remain valid--without any of the components of peace and normalization.

The second possibility is that Egypt will continue with the normalization process in spite of disagreement over the nature of autonomy. I find it hard to believe that this is how Egypt will behave.

[Question] The prime minister has repeated that if the United States offers Israel a defense pact, he will recommend that the Cabinet accept the proposal. Do you agree?

[Answer] In relations involving Israel's security, between Israel and the United States, a distinction should be made between several levels.

The first level is: the guaranteeing of Israel's military power by the United States through supply of the military weapons and equipment needed to maintain a reasonable balance of power with the comprehensive Arab force threatening Israel. Also, the U.S. must guarantee the financial aid Israel needs to procure these weapons.

On this issue Israel stands on firm ground. It is now accepted by the U.S. public, the houses of Congress and the administration, that Israel must be supplied with the necessary means for its security. There have been, and there will continue to be, differences of opinion between Israel and the United States over the quantities and types of weapons, but there is a broad plane of agreement here.

The second level is: deterring the Soviet Union from direct military intervention against Israel. Although there is no formal commitment on the part of the United States to do so, the experience of past wars proves that whenever there is a danger of direct Soviet military intervention--even if only in the most restricted form--the United States has taken care to deter the Soviet Union. If there is a possibility of turning this de facto commitment by the United States into a formal one--without political cost to Israel--I will support it.

However--and this is the third level--this is not the sort of pact referred to when a defense pact between Israel and the United States is mentioned, but a pact which would make it appear that any Arab attack against Israel is one against the United States. This would, if necessary, require sending the U.S. Army to the defense of Israel and would mean war with the attacking Arab forces.

The United States has only one defense pact involving a regional dispute which binds it to use its forces in the framework of a dispute between the countries of the region, without any other superpower's being involved: that is the defense agreement between the United States and South Korea. This agreement is not popular with the U.S. people and it is my impression that the United States is trying to restrict, if not cancel, this agreement.

It does not appear to me that Israel has any interest in a defense agreement of this sort. It is hard for me to imagine that the United States would be prepared for such an agreement without achieving a political solution to the comprehensive dispute between Israel and the Arab world. In such an event, the agreement would become a substitute for Israel's self-defense capability and for defensible borders and would include a vigorous U.S. demand for withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967 in all sectors.

This substitute, from Israel's viewpoint, is negative and very dangerous.

Furthermore, in accordance with all U.S. defense agreements, with the European countries, within the NATO framework and in other areas, the comprehensive responsibility for conducting defense policy--and certainly regarding military activity of any kind--is transferred to the United States.

The matter is clear: If the defense policy and the right of military activity of any kind could involve the United States in a war and cause a loss of U.S. lives, the United States will not permit anybody to decide on this for it. If Israel is tied to the United States by such a pact, it will be impossible to decide on any military action capable of causing escalation and war without advance authorization from the United States. In Europe, no country belonging to NATO is entitled to conduct a reconnaissance sortie without authorization from the NATO Command--this means, in fact, without authorization from the United States. Such a defense agreement with the United States, under Israel's special conditions, means, in fact, a concession of Israel's defense independence, if not more than that.

The backbone upon which the U.S. moral and practical support for Israel relies is based on the uniqueness of Israel's position, which has determined that we can defend ourselves by ourselves. We do not need the aid of U.S. boys and we do not want their blood to be spilt in our defense. A departure from this position would be a severe blow to the strong moral foundations of Israel's position among the U.S. people.

However, if the United States turns to Israel with a request to use our installations and bases, either naval or aerial, to meet U.S. needs in the Middle East which are not directly connected with the defense of Israel against the Arab countries, this should be approved. If, for example, the United States wants the 6th Fleet to receive port service in Haifa to make its activity in the eastern Mediterranean more efficient, it will only be natural for Israel to respond positively to this.

NEW ILLEGAL GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENT REPORTED

TA200754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[Text] This morning Gush Emunim and the committee of Yamit Strip settlements established an illegal settlement in the Yamit area, south of the town. About 120 people are there now. They have erected buildings, brought water containers and put up barbed wire fences. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that in the past, before the peace talks with Egypt began, the Ministry of Agriculture had approved this area for settlement. It may be assumed that the timing for the settlement was chosen because of the opening of the political debate in the Knesset today. Our correspondent has also learned that the inhabitants of the Rafah approaches intend to block the approach roads with their vehicles to prevent their evacuation. At this moment the army has not yet discovered the settlement.

No Yamit Link With Settlement

TA200758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[Text] This morning the committee of Yamit inhabitants announced that the town has no connection with the settlement established by Gush Emunim in the Al-'Arish area. The committee's spokesman, Yisra'el Nir, said that the Yamit inhabitants' committee was opposed to having its town thought to be collaborating with an illegal settlement. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that a small delegation of Yamit inhabitants is going to Jerusalem today to speak with members of the Knesset during breaks in the political debates on the peace agreement.

WEST BANK DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST TREATY CONTINUE

TA191128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] There were demonstrations against autonomy in several areas in the West Bank. In Hebron the demonstrators threw stones, set tires on fire and severed a telephone line. In Qalandiyah students gathered for a demonstration, but security personnel prevented it and collected the students for interrogation. There was also a small demonstration in Nabulus.

Gaza Students Out on Bail

TA191214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] In Gaza 11 high school students were released on bail set at 11,500 Israeli pounds each, guaranteed by their parents, after having been detained last week after they went to the streets to demonstrate and threw stones at the security forces. Our correspondents Bassam Jabir and 'Ezra Yanuv report that these are students of the Sons of Palestine High School and that their demonstration was an unusual phenomenon after the calm that has been prevailing in Gaza for more than 2 years.

Demonstration on Mount Hermon

TA191316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] There was a large demonstration in the village of Bani Na'im on Mount Hermon and the army was forced to enter the school in order to disperse students. Youths threw stones and severed a telephone line belonging to the regional council. Nobody was injured.

IDF OFFICER HELD AFTER HALHUL SHOOTING; CURFEW CONTINUES

TA191600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Today it became known that an IDF officer involved in the shooting incident in Halhul last week, in which two Arab demonstrators were killed, has been detained in Hebron. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that no details could be obtained for the time being and that the IDF spokesman has refused to comment. The officer had apparently violated the regulations on opening fire.

Our correspondent says the curfew is still in force in Halhul--for the fifth day now. It is lifted for 1 hour every day so that the inhabitants can buy food.

The curfew in the village of Lower Bayt Horon on the Ramallah-Latrun road is in force for the second day now. This morning the curfew was violated in that village and youths went out to demonstrate. The security personnel fired in the air and sent them back to their homes.

SWEDISH CITIZEN DETAINED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGE

TA191954 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The security forces have detained a Swedish citizen on suspicion of spying for a foreign superpower. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the man, whose name was not disclosed, was formerly a UN employee and had served in the Middle East up to several months ago.

Several days ago he came to Israel for a visit and was detained. It is suspected that he had been recruited by the foreign country's intelligence service when he served in this area. A news blackout has been imposed on investigation proceedings.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 19 MARCH

Commander Warns Sanandaj Kurds

LD191010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Before we end our bulletin and announce the rate of foreign exchange, we draw your attention to an important announcement:

Brave Iranian Kurds of Sanandaj, a number of opportunist and counterrevolutionary elements in Sanandaj have resorted to creating a disturbance and have claimed, over Sanandaj Radio, in the name of the army commander, to be representatives of Imam Khomeyni and supporters of the Bazargan government. Please remember, the period of revolutionary destruction is over. It is now time to rebuild. Anyone in any part of the country resorting to causing chaos and provocation will be recognized as counterrevolutionary and as having no relations with the Islamic revolution.

The army personnel are the guardians of the revolution throughout the country. Please cooperate with your valiant army brothers and do not provide any opportunity for the counterrevolutionaries. Obviously, the counterrevolutionaries will be severely dealt with.

[Signed] The chief of General Staff of the Iranian Islamic Army.

Kurdish Statement on Sanandaj

LD190910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the national and religious Kurdish people:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Regarding the different interpretations given to the wishes of the Muslim Kurds by myself, Ahmad Moftizadeh, and His Excellency Seyyed Ezzeddin Hoseyni, certain individuals--despite our identical views about principles--have been trying to turn them into a dispute.

Considering that under the present circumstances any differences are detrimental to the interest of the nation, on the afternoon of Sunday, 18 March 1979, in the presence of a number of religious leaders at the residence of His Excellency Mullah Abdollah Mohammadi, the imam of Saqqez, we raised our views and reached an agreement on the nation's fundamental problems. The agreement, prepared in a three-point resolution, will be published. We therefore announce that no one is authorized to issue any statement in either of our names against the other. As for the events currently taking place in Sanandaj, we unanimously call for an end to hostilities and for an end to attacks on the barracks, since in the present circumstances these acts frustrate our attempts to reach a political settlement to current problems, to eliminate the vestiges of the satanic regime and to prevent violent acts. Moreover, we consider these acts as detrimental to the interests of the nation and Iranian Islamic republic.

Consequently, we emphatically call on all our brethren around the Sanandaj barracks to disperse and to stop complicating the current situation.

[Signed] Ahmad Moftizadeh, Abdolrahman Taheri, Mohammad Qadiri, Mollah Abdollah Mohammadi, Imam Jome'h Saqqez, Seyyed Ezzeddin Hoseyni, Imam Jome'h Mahabad; 18 March 1979.

Khomeyni Warns Kurds

LD191012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0945 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a message issued by the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Esteemed Muslim Kordestan citizens: It has been heard that a group of people has created chaos in our dear Kordestan, and that this group does not wish to leave the Muslims in peace. This group is acting contrary to Islamic principles. These people are attacking and insulting the army, which has now returned to the Muslim nation and is in line with it. These acts are contrary to Islamic principles and the interest of the Muslim people.

The people of Kordestan and other regions must know that any attack on the army and gendarmerie is rejected by us. We have no dispute with our Sunni brethren; we are all members of a single nation and a single Koran. The army, the gendarmerie and the police should also remember that as of now they are the guardian of the Muslim people's interest and independence, that if anyone attacks them, he is not part of the Muslim people; that he is an agent of foreigners. The armed forces must defend most strongly the interest of the Muslim people and foil any attack against them and against the honor of the people.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 19 March 1979.

Radio Appeal to Kurds

LD191154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Honorable people of Kurdestan: You know that the first stage of the all-embracing Iranian revolution is over and that the process of reconstruction has begun. All individuals and classes must remain committed and cooperate to bring the revolution to fruition and uproot colonialism and its tools. Now the army and security forces are working side by side to bring the revolution to fruition. The Iranian Army is no longer a satanic army. It is in the service of the revolution. The army, under the order of Imam Khomeyni, consists of soldiers of the imam and the Islamic revolution, who must therefore be able to resist any attack.

The Iranian Islamic revolutionary government has no desire whatsoever to shed the blood of even a single brother. Consequently, it is necessary for our brothers to refrain from carrying out any attack on the army and government centers. Obviously, considering its task, the army will most strongly defend the country's integrity, and will counter any disorder or counterrevolutionary act. The government sincerely desires that all individuals and groups refrain from any such attacks, and if they have any demands that they should send their representatives and hold talks. They should be assured that their lawful wishes will be attended to; otherwise, any unpleasant incident which might occur will be the responsibility of the counterrevolutionary elements.

Cease-Fire in Kordestan

LD191456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Following the statement issued by the religious and national leaders of Kordestan, it was said that, on the basis of the agreements made between the local authorities and governmental authorities, the armed fighters must be aware that as of this afternoon a cease-fire has been arranged and the fighters have been asked to refrain from shooting at the barracks. Likewise, the military personnel inside the barracks have also agreed to refrain from firing.

Chief of Staff's Appeal

LD191720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1515 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following announcement was issued today by the chief of the General Staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army. The text of the announcement is as follows:

In the name of Almighty God, according to information, right now a number of Muslim brother crusaders and brave men who are all believers in the righteousness of the revolution have started to go to Sanandaj with private and public vehicles as individuals or in groups from Tehran and various provincial towns in order to crush the antirevolutionary elements who were planning an attack on the Kordestan garrison. While thanking our dear compatriots for their bravery, devotion and self-sacrifice--and nothing other than this could have been expected--inasmuch as the National Iranian Islamic Army has the situation under control presently, it is being requested that everyone refrain from approaching the area and return to Tehran and the other cities in order to preserve the control and general order, and in order to prevent any clash and unexpected incident. Obviously, necessary instructions have been issued in this respect by Imam Khomeyni's committee to all of the committees along the routes to Kordestan.

[Signed] Chief of the General Staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army Major General Qarani.

Sanandaj: 'Dozens' Killed, Wounded

LD191723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] After 24 hours of unrest and armed clashes in Sanandaj, a cease-fire was established in this city this afternoon. The unrest in Sanandaj left dozens of killed and wounded behind.

Report on Sanandaj Clashes

LD191735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Clashes continued yesterday and today in Sanandaj, and a cease-fire was established only this afternoon. This occured after a number of people went to the city garrison to get ammunition, where Hojjatoleslam (Daftari), the congregation imam of Sanandaj, refused their request. The people protested at this and shops in the city closed down. As a sign of protest, the people of Sanandaj gathered on the grounds of the governor general's office.

Antirevolutionary elements then started shooting at them, killing and wounding several people. The clash spread, with shooting between the personnel of the garrison and the people of the city. A cease-fire was finally established this afternoon as a result of mediation by local religious leaders and senior commanders of the garrison. However, shops remained closed and the people are still unsure of what is happening. Unconfirmed reports say four people were killed and more than 100 injured.

Protest to Afghan Government

ID191144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 79 ID

[Text] The Provisional Revolutionary Islamic Government has called a statement issued by the Afghan Government regarding Iran's interference in the internal affairs of that country utter nonsense, and strongly protested to the Afghan Government. The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that yesterday afternoon the Afghan Government issued a completely false statement concerning that country's problems and Iran's interference in the affairs of Afghanistan, claiming that among the 7,000 Afghan nationals expelled from Iran for illegally entering and staying in Iran there were 4,000 Iranian soldiers. The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Government, being quite familiar with such accusations in the past, is fully aware of the aims of other governments which try to hold others responsible for their own internal problems. Consequently, the Provisional Revolutionary Islamic Government of Iran officially denies the aforementioned points and strongly protests such fabrications and their dissemination by the Afghan Government.

Dismissed University Staff

ID191500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 79 ID

[Text] The following announcement was made by the revolutionary council on purges at the University of Tehran:

In the name of God Almighty: University sisters and brothers: Now with the help of God and the assistance of students, professors and employees of the University of Tehran, coordinating committees have been formed in most of the colleges and affiliated institutions, and temporary supervisors have been selected. In accordance with Circular No 66949 dated 13 March 1979 concerning the purge from the university of those people associated with the satanic regime, and now that the names of a second group of educational members, whose employment has been terminated at the University of Tehran, has been passed on to the office of the prime minister, all university brothers and sisters are asked, with the cooperation of the coordinating committees, to submit their evidence and documents regarding those individuals who have in the past pursued policies against the public interest, and who have betrayed the university and university cadres. This evidence should be submitted to the revolutionary council on purges at the University of Tehran and to the Secretariat of the Revolutionary Council at the central administration office of the University of Tehran, so that it can be studied and investigated. Since some lists have unfortunately been distributed by some suspicious persons and groups at colleges and university institutions to cause concern and disorder, all university cadres are requested, as their revolutionary duty, to refrain from making any individual decision, so that perhaps this way they may display their revolutionary piety for the purpose of building the university of tomorrow which will be free from all types of ugliness and impurity.

The list of names in the second group of members of the educational cadre whose employment has been terminated at the University of Tehran is as follows:

Ahmad Hooshang Sharifi, professor of the law school and former minister of education;
Jamal Reza'i, professor of the faculty of literature and deputy chairman of the Rastakhiz Party;
Seyyed Mohammad Meshkat, professor of the school of economics and deputy chairman of the Rastakhiz Party;
Reza 'Olumi-Yazdi, professor of the law school and a former Majlis deputy;
Shahrokh Amir-Arjmand, associate professor of the faculty of science and one of the close associates of the shah's court;
Khosrow Karm-Shahi, associate professor of the technical college and deputy chairman of the Rastakhiz Party;
Reza Mzluman, associate professor of the law school and former deputy minister of education;
Hosseyn Behzadi-Audukhgerdi, associate professor of the faculty of literature and praiser of the shah's court;
Fereydun Haj Seyyed-Javadi, associate professor at the international center for biochemistry and biophysics and a close associate of the shah's court;
Reza Ohaniyan-Javadi, professor at the international center for biochemistry and biophysics and a close associate of the shah's court;

Nader Afshar-Naderi, associate professor at the college of social science and a close associate of the shah's court;
Iraj Lalezari, professor of the college of pharmacy and a close associate of the shah's court;
Shama'il Rahbar, professor of the college of medicine and science of Ibn-e Sina and a close associate of the shah's court;
Kazem Jaffori, professor of the technical college and senator;
Bahman Parsa, associate professor of the college of nuclear science and former deputy minister of education;
Daryoosh Shirvani-Nezhad, professor of the medical college of Imam Khomeyni, Majlis deputy and dean of students at Tehran University;
Ehsan Naraqi, professor of the school of social science, a close associate of the shah's court and a mouthpiece of the former regime;
Yahya 'Adl, professor of the medical school and senator;
Amir Abbas Sami', associate professor of public administration at the business management institute and deputy chairman of the Rastakhiz Party;
Ja'far Bushehri, professor of the law school and former deputy minister of the interior in the Azhari administration.

OPEC Meeting

LD191308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] It was announced today that an emergency session of OPEC is to be held in Geneva on 26 March to learn of Iran's economic and political position and Iran's policies on oil pricing and volume of sales. At this meeting, to be held at the invitation of the OPEC Secretariat, a delegation from Iran composed of 'Ali Ardalan, minister of finance and economic affairs; Hassan Nazih, managing director of NIOC; and some experts from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and NIOC will also participate.

Armed Forces' Marches

LD191610 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 19 March reports on marches being held today by the armed forces in various cities including Tehran, Tabriz, Esfahan, Ahvaz and Orumiyeh. All of these reports include reports on speeches made by various individuals in praise of the Islamic revolutionary army and its solidarity with the cause of the revolution, and support for Imam Khomeyni.

The announcer then reads a message from Dr Yazdi, deputy prime minister, describing certain details of the brutalities and slaughters carried out by the shah's regime and SAVAK. At the end of Dr Yazdi's message, a list is read, which runs for 12 minutes, of a number of men and women who lost their lives during the previous regime over a period of several years because of their opposition to the regime. The radio says the families of these victims had no information about where they were buried or the dates of their disappearance, and provides this information in the cases of some of them.

Airport Tax To Increase

LD191558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The under secretary of the Ministry of Roads and Transport and head of the civil aviation organization announced that in the near future basic revisions will be made by a committee of experts concerning airport tax, flight over Iranian territory, parking fees, landing and takeoff and lighting of the airport. Commenting on these matters, he said: Considering the chaotic situation in the past, and vested interests of responsible officials and the rich, measures cannot be taken to collect airport tax, which is an impressive source of income for society. He then added: Based on airport taxes collected in the Middle East, European countries and the U.S., an average figure will be calculated and later a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for final approval. On such a basis, according to a preliminary estimate, airport tax in Iran will be increased 10-12 times.

Relations With Iraq

LD191752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amir Entezam said today that Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan has condemned, on behalf of the Iranian Government, the fait accompli concerning the Iraqi brothers carried on the Arabic section of Abadan Radio. [as heard] The deputy prime minister also said: The Iranian Government insists on the consolidation of friendly and cordial relations between the two friendly and fraternal countries of Iran and Iraq, and is hopeful that these relations will enjoy consistent expansion.

Prosecutors To Replace Committees

LD191755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] On the basis of a statement issued by the minister of justice, and of confirmation by Mehdi [name indistinct], the revolution attorney general, Mohammad Qasemi, the Rasht City public prosecutor, has been appointed revolution public prosecutor of Gilan province. He has already started his work. It was later announced that henceforth all dossiers relating to persons accused of antirevolution charges will be sent from the committees to the revolution public prosecutor's office for examination.

Provincial Governors General

LD191758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the interior minister, today appointed Seyyed Ahmad Tabataba'i as governor general of Mazandaran, and 'Ali Asghar Ma'navi as governor general of Lorestan.

Demonstrations in Tabriz

JN191826 Abadan International Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Mammoth marches were held in Tabriz today with the participation of all sectors of the people, including workers, ulemas, employees, soldiers from the airborne forces and members of the Iranian Islamic National Army. The marchers went through the city streets carrying pictures of Ayatollah Khomeyni and Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan. They also carried banners with Islamic revolutionary slogans calling for the establishment of an Islamic republic.

Minister Meets Czechoslovak Ambassador

LD191928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Czechoslovak ambassador in Iran met with Commerce Minister Reza Sadr at his office today. At this meeting, the commerce minister and the ambassador discussed the possibility of expanding and further improving trade relations between the two countries.

Policy on Foreign Nations

LD191938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following announcement was published by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs today: "All employers who have foreign nationals in their employ are hereby informed that the government policy is based on the principle that as far as possible, Iranians should be employed instead of the foreign nationals who are presently employed in Iran. Hence all the work permits of foreign nationals who work in the posts of foremen or below this capacity, such as driving and manual labor, are valid until 20 April 1979, and other work permits pertaining to the posts above foremen, including engineering services, management [word indistinct] and the like are valid until 21 June 1979. In view of the needs of the country's employment market concerning the extension of the terms of employment, a new decision will be taken on the above-mentioned dates.

Similarly, the employment of foreign nationals who do not have work permits is absolutely forbidden, and employers violating this rule will be prosecuted under the law. All employers who have foreign nationals in their employ would be well advised to contact the alien employment office within the appointed time and clarify their position.

Abadan Radio Apology

JN191915 Abadan International Service in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Station announcement]

[Text] We draw the attention of our respected listeners to the fact that the speech carried over the voice of the Islamic revolution in Iran on Friday, 16 March, represented only the speaker's views and had no official nature. We affirm our relations of good neighborliness with all our Arab brothers and hope that the speech will not harm the firm relations which link the Iranian and Arab peoples.

New Year's Holidays

LD191939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced that official holidays for workers, within the meaning of the labor law, during the new year beginning 21 March will be 21, 22 and 23 March. A study on the workers' legal holidays is in progress and the final decision will be communicated to all the country's workers when it is made.

NIOC CHIEF ADDRESSES MESSAGE ON OIL DAY

LD200914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The NIOC managing director, in a message issued on the occasion of oil day, refers to the struggles and historic statements of the late Dr Mohammad Mosaddeq, and to the spiritual leadership of Imam Khomeyni and his continuation of Dr Mosaddeq's line, as well as to the correct utilization of oil resources and proper expenditure of oil revenues. He says: From now on Iranian oil and its revenue belong to Iranians, and the diligence of the oil workers can make our Iran prosperous and serve the welfare of Iranians.

TUDEH PARTY BEGINS PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPAPER

NC172050 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 17 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 17 (AFP)--Iran's pro-Soviet communist party Tudeh (the masses) was today openly distributing copies of its official paper MARDOM (THE PEOPLE) for the first time in the journal's 37-year history.

An editorial in the eight-page weekly called for "complete nationalisation" of the Iranian oil industry and added: "The real aim of the fight is anti-imperialist". It carried a communique on the party Central Committee's 16th plenum which stressed the need for a "united popular front" grouping "all the democratic forces, the heroic fighters of the (Ayatollah) Khomeyni, the Tudeh Party and the others". The party, whose status (?has not) yet been officially recognised, has already declared its support for the ayatollah's Islamic republic.

COMMUNIST DISSIDENT GROUP JOINS TUDEH PARTY IN IRAN

JN181529 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 18 March--A dissident group of the Marxist Fedayeen People's Fighters Organization today announced its full merger with the Tudeh Party. A statement issued by the group says that since the Tudeh Party has resumed its activities openly, there is no longer a need to carry out unilateral activities. Therefore, all the publications previously issued by the group will be suspended. This group had carried out its activities against the former regime under the name of "Dissident Group of the People's Fedayyen."

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN200651 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Yesterday, the great Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni received Hani al-Hasan, PLO representative in Tehran. Hani al-Hasan conveyed a message addressed to Ayatollah Khomeyni from Brother Abu 'Ammar.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khomeyni and Hani al-Hasan reviewed current issues and developments. Ayatollah Khomeyni showed great understanding of the issues discussed. He also took appropriate measures regarding a number of the issues raised during the meeting.

BAZARGAN ON POLITICAL STRUCTURE, RELATIONS WITH WEST, OIL

LD190815 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 11 Mar 79 pp 33-4 LD

[Giancesare Flesca 1 March interview in Tehran with Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan: "Now I'll Set Them to Rights! Bazargan's Promise"]

[Text] Tehran--Mehdi Bazargan received me in his prime minister's office at 0930 on 1 March on our caldendar--10 Esfand in the Persian calendar. It ws a historic date in Iran. Indeed, at about the same time Ayatollah Khomeyni was leaving Tehran for the holy city of Qom, where he will live from now on. "Mission Accomplished," the morning press headlines read. What next? Would the revolution grant full powers to the courteous septuagenarian whom I was about to interview? Or would the reins of power remain in Khomeyni's hands?

Through this period, the provisional government formed by Bazargan has remained decidely in the shade. Now, however, the provisional prime minister seemed determined to react. Taking advantage of Khomeyni's departure for Qom, he is trying to assert the government's authority for the first time. Even yesterday, in a very Kennedy-style "fireside" interview broadcast on television, Bazargan revealed many of the assertive proposals which he was not prepared to present to one of the first journalists to interview him 4 months ago, when his name was still unknown. "The revolution," he said, almost as if to excuse himself, "has progressed much more rapidly than we ourselves expected. History has moved faster than we have. And so we suddenly found ourselves in power, almost without realizing it, and certainly still very unprepared in view of the vast scale of the task before us. To repair the damage done by the shah, to build a credible democracy after 25 centuries of dictatorship, to tackle a very grave economic crisis: Even a month ago it seemed impossible that we would have to tackle problems of such dimensions...."

The former engineer, well-known for his research in thermodynamics and a treatise on "the mathematics of the Koran," seemed frankly scared. He was tired. They say that he works up to 20 hours a day, although the results cannot yet be seen. Indeed, what has his government done? "Very little," he himself admitted. "In this country people have been praying for over a century for the rain to come and end the drought of the dictatorship. Now that the rain has come, it is very abundant, impossible to control and could cause much damage unless we manage to channel it peacefully." Bazargan was referring to the increasing number of liberal-democratic demands that have flourished since the popular uprising, and did not hide his doubts and fears. "The students want councils, the workers want councils and even some soldiers are demanding that the army be governed by councils. Everywhere, therefore, the strike committees of revolutionary committes are replacing government authority and taking decisions which are not theirs to take. Every mosque is electing a revolutionary committee, which acts independently. Thus, the government decides one thing and they do another. We agree with the Americans on a plan to evacuate some of their citizens from the south, and then the militia forces ground the aircraft on the pretext that they are CIA agents. An official was appointed to a public post. His ministry's revolutionary committee kept him locked in a room for 3 days.

The people administer justice with whiplashes, the mollahs act like proconsuls in the provinces, the leftwing elements stir up the workers and soldiers.... Either the institutional situation is clarified before the referendum, scheduled to take place in a month's time, or I will resign. The Khomeyni committee must be dissolved. Of course, there will still be the Revolutionary Council, which at present incorporates the functions of head of state and of parliament, but nothing else. I will not tolerate any other authorities." Other items could be added to the unfortunate engineers' complaints. It could be recalled that Bazargan has been compelled to change the air force chief five times because the soldiers did not like him, that he has had to do likewise with the head of the military police, and that students and lecturers at Tehran University will probably refuse admission to the government-appointed rector. Faced with a situation of this kind, one ought perhaps to ask the prime minister if he does not consider his government in fact "unsuitable" in view of the people's movement which has grown up in Iran over the past few months, but the question would perhaps be superfluous.

Bazargan knows in fact that in the universities and the most aggressive factories his government is referred to as an "imperialist lackey." Press revelations show that the new military chiefs appointed by Bazargan are already in touch with the U.S. secret services. The premier's answers on all these subjects were vague. He did not hide the fact that his greatest concern is to maintain good relations with the West. He denied that the Islamic revolution will be exported to neighboring countries and he confirmed the need to "rebuild as quickly as possible an army capable of defending the country against every possible attack, even if this means the return of several thousand U.S. military advisers."

But perhaps some of the prime minister's decisions must be attributed not so much to bad faith as to a degree of confusion. Discussing oil, the man who directed Mosaddeq's nationalization seemed not to remember the role played at that time by Mattei and the Italian national hydrocarbons agency. When he did manage to draw from his somewhat tired memory the recollection of the aid given by the Italians against the seven sisters, Bazargan promised that "the contracts for extraction in the gulf granted precisely in Mattei's memory to Strip and Iminoco will not be broken." As for the other aspects of oil policy, Bazargan confirmed "the advisability of removing the Western Consortium which dealt with the marketing of our oil. Also," the prime minister continued, "it will be necessary to reduce our production of crude oil, but even more so of natural gas."

What money will Iran use to survive, then? And how will it deal with its commitments to major international, including Italian, enterprises? "We will have enough to live on," Bazargan replied. "And as for the foreign enterprises, you must not forget that many of those enterprises are carrying out superfluous projects, linked to the shah's megalomania. Their influence will inevitably be reduced, many of their contracts will be terminated and the number of foreign workers in the country will be restricted, though we will continue to seek aid from qualified experts." We asked whether the government has already examined the Bandar Abbas contracts. Bazargan did not seem to know, but thought that the Italians were building a military port there and nothing else, and guaranteed that he would look at the matter as soon as possible. "Our fundamental criterion," he explained "will be the one adopted by the Japanese, who were building the Bandar Shapur petrochemical plant. We have already spent $260 million on a $330 million project, so we will carry it through to the end. This will not be the case where contracts have only just started." With this comment, which casts threatening shadows over the future of Condotte, Italipianti and Saipem, the conversation ended. As I left the office the revolutionary militiaman who searched me as I came in saluted me with a smile. I felt like asking whether he was there to defend the prime minister or to prevent him from escaping.

AYATOLLAH SHARI'AT-MADARI CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF AFGHAN REBELS

NC170920 Paris AFP in English 0829 GMT 17 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 17 (AFP)--The second highest Iranian Muslim Shi'ite leader, the Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, called today on all Muslims to support Afghan rebels fighting against the Kabul Marxist government, press reports said here today. Afghan Muslims were enduring "the worst tortures of a medieval type" just for being Muslims, the ayatollah charged.

The Kabul government had "eliminated" thousands of people living in Muslim communities, and government troops had killed 170 Afghan religious leaders and wounded 500 others, the Iranian Shi'ite leader claimed. He also accused government forces of bombing gatherings of Muslims in several towns, notably in Kandahar.

The Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's attack on the government of neighbouring Afghanistan is the first public stand taken by Iranian religious leaders on behalf of Muslim rebels fighting against the Kabul regime.

The ayatollah's commitment on behalf of Afghan Muslims--most of whom are Sunnis--had caused considerable surprise in Tehran where the present regime, like the shah's, has always acted cautiously in its relations with Afghanistan, in spite of Soviet influences now apparent in the country. It is not possible to find out whether the ayatollah's call for support to the rebels will lead to concrete aid for the insurgents fighting the Kabul regime. Observers here recall that the Islamic republic only a few days ago called for Afghanistan and India to join the RCD, a regional economic bloc which also includes Turkey and Pakistan.

Iranian spokesmen have recently stressed their intention to keep out of other countries' affairs, but at the same time Iran has expressed interest in increased cooperation with neighbouring states.

Tehran has already made it clear that it does not intend to take sides between Egypt and its opponents in the Arab world. Its support for the Palestinians is expected to be more rhetorical than active. It has not recognized the self-proclaimed Saharan Democratic Republic despite urgings by a delegation here of the POLISARIO Front, which is fighting for the independence of the former Spanish Sahara.

An Eritrean delegation currently in Tehran is keeping a low profile while it tries to negotiate support for its cause, so far without apparent success.

The Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's outburst in favour of the Afghan rebels appears to many observers to be in contradiction with Iran's stated policy.

NVOI STRESSES OBSERVANCE OF ISLAMIC MODESTY

TA162142 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Mar 79 TA

[NVOI commentary: "Guidance--The Key To Observing Islamic Modesty"]

[Excerpts] Those who, in the name of the imam's committee, created a great deal of difficulties for the honorable women of our land during the past 2-3 days, were cautioned by the members and committees to discontinue such dishonest actions. During a speech, His Highness Ayatollah Khomeyni stressed the necessity of observance of Islamic modesty by the noble and beloved women of our country. There is no doubt that the observance of modesty is one of the responsibilities of every noble woman, particularly the struggling Muslim women of our country.

We should say that the corrupt regime of American envoys and Western advisers made a tremendous effort to draw our society into immodesty and unchaste acts, and succeeded to a certain degree. It should be admitted that the corrupt environment of the regime of the American advisers and educators was limited to the ruling ranks and a handful of corrupt agents and evildoers, and could hardly succeed in influencing our society, a society which was in constant conflict with ignorance and corruption. It was in the murky enviornment of the murderous and corrupt regime that the majority of these same struggling and striving Iranian women fought shoulder-to-shoulder with men in our national struggle against despotism, for freedom and equality and for the respect of human dignity.

In praise and in appreciation of the heroic women of our fatherland, Imam Khomeyni confirmed that had it not been for our heroic and sacrificing women, our nation would have been doomed. Therefore, no one has the right to (?denigrate) the position and the meaning of the heroic women of our fatherland.

The question of observing Islamic modesty should be considered under the conditions of today's world. In a telephone interview Imam Khomeyni had with the correspondent of the voice of Islamic revolution of Iran, he said that the observance of Islamic modesty is one question and wearing the veil quite another. In other words, in order to observe Islamic modesty, it is not sufficient to wear the veil. It is not befitting to our national and Islamic position that instead of guiding the women to observe Islamic modesty, they should resort to immodesty.

The group which did not follow the recommendations of Imam Khomeyni for the purpose of national Islamic revolution and Islamic modesty, has been justly punished by the central committee of the Islamic revolution. Under conditions where the enemies of Iran's revolution are waiting in ambush, and under conditions where the evildoers of the former SAVAK of the hated shah's regime and the officials of the CIA remain in their lairs waiting for an opportunity to revive the dark era and to strike at the Iranian nation, these Islamic differences can only make the enemies of Iran and the Iranian revolution rejoice.

The great liberal and prudent Islamic politician [name indistinct] says: Bring your children up and educate them differently from the way you were brought up, because the time they came into the world was different from yours. The force of our country's struggling and enlightened women stems from the reserve forces of our country's great national and Islamic revolution. Undoubtedly, by implementing new methods of guidance, and only through guidance, can we make the Islamic system work as befits the historically high position of women in our nation.

NVOI ON 'NEW CONSPIRACIES', ESTABLISHMENT OF REPUBLIC

TA162145 (Clandestine) National Voice or Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Mar 79 TA

[NVOI Commentary: "The Important Thing at the Present Stage Is To Establish a Republican System"]

[Text] Every day the enemies of Iran's revolution set up new conspiracies in various parts of the country, particularly in Tehran and in other cities, hoping to reestablish a handful of murderers, thieves, royalists and their American masters in our liberated Iran, a hope which they will undoubtedly take to their graves. To encourage the SAVAK men and the traitor royalists, [word indistinct] of America and to continue murders and new conspiracies against the bloody revolution of Iran, they proceed with injurious actions such as the dispatch of warships to the Persian Gulf and the strengthening of military bases in that region. Carter, the President of the United States of America, ordered the aricraft carrier Constellation to remain in the Indian Ocean near the Persian Gulf.

Americans are also plotting and instigating against the Iranian revolutionary government and against the progressive and national forces in many countries bordering the Persian Gulf, especially in Saudi Arabia.

In short, American imperialism and its hirlings, who claim to be Iranians, i.e. the swindler royalists, the murderous SAVAK men, and spies of the Pentagon and the CIA, are also waiting in ambush to set up conspiracies here and there. This is inimical to the gains made by the people's revolution in Iran. Their homeless shah directs and encourages these enemies of revolution in different ways from Morocco, and supports them financially.

The activities of these criminals and traitors, headed by the agents of American imperialism, have been intensified especially on the threshhold of a referendum in which the people of our country will cast their votes for the establishment of a [word indistinct] republic. American imperialism, agents and traitors, the corrupt and criminal royalists and enemies of the noble people of Iran, who have spilled the blood of our sons into the ground and have robbed them for many years, should know that it is not possible to reverse the course of history, and that the Iranian people will defend their great victory with all their might.

In the course of sensitive historic conditions, it is the duty of all freedom-loving and noble Iranians to protect their unanimity, their unity and togetherness. Thus we can win a final victory for our nation's great revolution, and can obliterate the enemy's plots and conspiracies.

The first stage of Iran's revolution has begun, but the noble people of Iran have a very difficult road ahead before a final victory can be won. Our nation and society face numerous problems, all of which need to be solved quickly. However, for the victory in a referendum, the election of an (?institutional) parliament, for parliamentary free elections, for the formation of a national government based on the people's will, and for strengthening the basis of a national revolutionary government, major efforts have to be made to back the revolution and to safeguard the victory in a referendum and by the establishment of a republic.

After the successful completion of the referendum and free elections, and after the formation of a revolutionary government, the serious problems which our nation and society face can and should be solved. The people's revolutionary government and the parliament, the members of which will be elected by (?single) vote and absolutely free election, will solve the numerous problems that our country and people face today.

NVOI ON TUDEH SUPPORT FOR REFERENDUM, REVOLUTIONARY COURTS

TA161707 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1945 GMT on 15 March carries a commentary on the forthcoming referendum in Iran. The commentary says: "On the day of the referendum, our country's people will go to the polls and by voting for an Islamic republic will actually express their rejection of the evil and bloodshedding monarchy. It is a great national duty to participate in such an historic event, and one may well feel pride and joy that such a referendum will be held as a result of the Iranian nation's victorious revolution." The commentary then says that "for more than 2,500 years our country was ruled by bloodthirsty sultans and shahs." "Mohammad Reza II shed the nation's blood, plundered all its wealth, betrayed the country's interests and exceeded all others in such crimes, but was finally dumped into the dustbin of history."

The commentary says: "Our country's national and progressive forces, political parties and religious leaders have called on our people to maintain their unity of word and action. They are urging the people to prevent with all their strength the dispersal of votes in the referendum. So let us vote as a single body. His holiness, the Great Ayatollah Khomeyni, has called for a vote for an Islamic republic."

After stressing the "vital importance of unity among all national and democratic forces," the commentary goes on: "The Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party calls on all our dear compatriots to vote positively in the forthcoming referendum. The Central Committee, in its statement connected with the Tudeh Party's beginning to function openly, called on all national forces to maintain unity and solidarity by ignoring their political, professional and philosophical affiliations. The Iranian peoples' revolution and anti-imperialist and democratic movement have achieved great victories as a result of unprecedented heroism, sacrifice and unity. The Iranian Tudeh Party has devoted and continues to devote all its strength to the triumph of this movement. It once again proclaims that it supports His Holiness Khomeyni and the establishment, through the people's votes, of a republic and a constituent assembly, and the creation of a new constitution and a national and democratic government. It calls on all the people to reject imperialism."

The radio then carries a commentary expressing support for the revolutionary Islamic courts. The commentary says: "The struggling Iranian nation, which with its strong hand has dumped the dark and evil monarchic regime into the dustbin of history, now insists that those dogs [kelpler] who, during the despotic Pahlavi rule, violated the people's rights and liberties and betrayed both the country and the nation, and whose hands are soiled up to their elbows with the blood of Iran's free people, should be tried and severely punished more speedily. The Revolutionary Islamic Court, which is operating in accordance with the directive of Imam Khomeyni, is sentencing the traitors and criminals to the punishments they deserve, in conformity with our nation's just and legitimate demand in this respect. Two days ago, members of another gang of enemies of Iran were tried for crimes and treason, and were sentenced to punishments they deserved."

The commentary says: "The Iranian nation and all of the country's national forces support and welcome the revolutionary courts' judgments, taking into consideration the fact that these dogs for years on end subjected our country's deprived people to persecution and barbaric acts." It is impossible to claim that those who committeed crimes and treason while the ousted regime operated, should not be tried and punished. The commentary goes on to say that "some (?lackeys) of colonialists, who have not yet abandoned the idea of interfering in our country's internal affairs," have now taken "these traitors and criminals under their protective wings and are shedding tears for them." They are "unashamedly terming the trial and punishment of these traitors and criminal SAVAKists as barbarism and unlawful acts."

The commentary says: "In those dark days, when American and British imperialism imposed their oppressive hegemony on our country, about 400,000 of the nation's beloved and distinguished sons were most brutally and inhumanly tortured and killed in SAVAK's torture cells by the assassins of the ousted regime. Which domestic or international law authorized these people of the old regime to torture, persecute and eliminate hundreds of thousands of people, whose only crime was waging a struggle for the Iranian peoples' rights against the evil regime? In whose pockets did billions and billions of Iranian rials flow? And by whom and for whom were they spent?"

The Iranian revolution has detached the hands of the American and British exploiters from Iran's noble land. That is why the colonialists are restless, says the commentary, and concludes: "With the Iranian nation's great efforts, the Iranian revolution will continue its forward march, despite the desperate uneasiness of colonialists and imperialists and their lackeys."

NVOI ON CARTER'S TRIP, BAZARGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

TA191333 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1945 GMT on 16 March carries a commentary entitled: "U.S. Schemes Must Be Exposed." The commentary says:

"Dear compatriots: A series of protest demonstrations have been held in connection with Carter's visit to the Near East and new U.S. conspiracies against our country. As part of these demonstrations, with the participation of social and political organizations, more than 100,000 people held a meeting in the capital city of Tehran. Speakers at the meeting emphasized that President Carter's visit to the Near East is an imperialist plot directed against peace and security in the area. The speakers condemned the plots designed by Carter, As-Sadat and Begin with the aim of intensifying interference and strengthening U.S. military presence in the area, and creating dissent among the area's countries. At the end of the meeting, more than 100,000 people--youths, government officials, workers and the Islamic Army's soldiers and officers--marched to the U.S. Embassy.

"The participants at the meeting strongly denounced U.S. imperialism's subversive interferences in the Near and Middle East, the dispatch of U.S. warships to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, and the Pentagon's efforts to create a new military pact to replace CENTO.

"The panicky U.S. moves and President Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel, and his convincing As-Sadat and Begin to sign a separate peace treaty conforming to the Pentagon's and CIA's aims, clearly show that U.S. imperialism has embarked on a series of adventurous moves after the collapse of the shah's bloodshedding regime, and after losing its military bases in our country."

The commentary then says that before Carter's visit to Egypt, As-Sadat sent a military force equipped with the most modern arms to Oman to satisfy the strategic U.S. needs and to act as the gendarme of the Persian Gulf, as the shah had been doing. "The United States is now trying to restore its lost political and military positions in the Middle East."

Some militant U.S. senators are asking Carter to send military forces to the Arabian Peninsula, particularly to Saudi Arabia, the commentary says. After saying that "the great demonstrations held by the people constituted a strong blow at Iran's scheming enemies," the commentary concludes: "Despite the U.S. military presence and the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. advisers in our country's political, military and economic sectors, and despite the CIA and SAVAK agents, the struggling and heroic Iranian people succeeded in ending the shah's evil regime, thus becoming an example to all countries in our region. That is why U.S. imperialism and its (?lackeys) are scared and have become more violent. With revolutionary enthusiasm, let us expose U.S. imperialism's schemes and let us put an end to its hostile influence and hegemony in our area."

The radio then carries another commentary entitled: "The Provisional Revolutionary Government's Successful Steps in the Sphere of Foreign Policy." After noting that "the Provisional Revolutionary Government is making efforts to secure the final success of the Iranian revolution," and emphasizing that "this is a very difficult task," the commentary says: "The enemies of the Iranian revolution are not for a moment refraining from acts and provocations directed against the revolutionary government and the Iranian nation. The ousted shah is still thinking of returning to Iran and drowning our country in bloodshed. And his masters are engaged in planning imperialist assaults against Iran near Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. On a wide front, Iran's reactionaries and despots and U.S. and British imperialism are engaged every day in conspiracies, provocations, crimes and treacherous acts against Iran's victorious revolution. But despite all the domestic and foreign difficulties, the Provisional Revolutionary Government continues to implement its reformist programs."

The commentary then says that under the shah's regime, Iran had lost its independence. It says: "Although Iran ostensibly had a government and an army, its real master and its overall lord was U.S. imperialism. And the shah's government and army were in the service of this hostile and bloodthirsty imperialism." After praising Mosaddeq's short-lived "policy of nonalinement and positive neutrality," and scoring the shah for "imposing CENTO, which was created by U.S. and British imperialism, on the nation," which "turned Iran into the area's international gendarme and a U.S. military and espionage base against the Soviet Union," the commentary says that the Provisional Revolutionary Government is now pursuing a foreign policy "which conforms to Iran's national interests and which has achieved great success within a short time."

The commentary says: "By leaving CENTO, Iran has now become the central member of the family of neutral and nonalined countries. Iran's revolutionary government has cut off its relations with aggressive Israel and South Africa, and has announced that it will no longer sell oil to those countries. It has also expressed its support for all the national independence movements in the region--especially for the PLO and the just struggle being waged by the PLO for human rights. The Iranian Foreign Ministry is currently studying the bilateral military agreements with the United States so that it can announce to the entire world the abrogation of these enslavement agreements."

At the United Nations, too, Iran is now supporting nations' rights and independence movements, the commentary says. It concludes: "All these are some of the successful and honest steps being taken by Engineer Bazargan's revolutionary government in the sphere of foreign policy, with the full approval of the nation."

KARACHI REPORTS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF, INTERIOR MINISTER

BK181737 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 79 BK

[Text] According to Kabul radio, Mr. Aslam Watanjar, a former interior minister, has been appointed as chief of staff and Mr. (Sherjan Majurior) has been appointed as interior minister.

KABUL RADIO ON PAKISTAN ATTITUDE TOWARD AFGHAN REBELS

BK180834 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 17 Mar 79 BK

[Text] According to a report from Pakistan, Mr. Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo, a Baluch leader, has warned the military government of Pakistan about the danger of (?issuing too many reports on) the antipeople elements of the revolution in Afghanistan. The elements have taken refuge in Pakistan. Mr. Bizenjo has stated that the activities of the anti-revolution of Afghanistan was likely to cause the relations between the two countries to deteriorate. Mr. Bizenjo added that he has notified the Pakistan authorities that encouraging the activities of the Afghan refugees is similar to allowing (?the mountain) natives to create unrest in Baluchistan and northwestern provinces of Pakistan. He has urged the Pakistan Government to try to prevent (?the deterioration of relations) with Afghanistan.

The paper (?PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC VOICE) has written that the Multan section of the Pakistan Socialist Party, which met under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Chauhan on the 20th of January, tabled a resolution in which it welcomed the revolution in Afghanistan and declared wholehearted solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. The resolution criticizes the Pakistan press for false information against the Afghan revolution and their (?unfounded) propaganda. The resolution urges the Pakistan Government not to allow the Afghan refugees in Pakistan to create unrest.

Another report says that the Central Committee of Pakistan Kisan [Farmer's] Committee of Faisalabad [words indistinct] recently welcomed the revolution in Afghanistan. The meeting congratulated the Government of Afghanistan on the elimination of the feudalistic regime and the declaration of land distribution to the landless peasants and small landholders, and expressed their confidence in their success. The periodicals in their reports stated that the Pakistan Kisan Committee in (Azalgarh) congratulated the victorious liberation in Afghanistan in their first meeting.

INDIA

PRC REPORTEDLY COMPLAINS ABOUT KOSYGIN'S REMARKS IN INDIA

BK181616 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 18 Mar 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 (AFP)--China has complained to India against the critical remarks made by the Soviet prime minister, Mr. Aleksey Kosygin, against China during his visit to this country last week, PTI news agency reported today.

Chinese Ambassador Chen Zhaoyuan called at the Foreign Office before Mr. Kosygin's visit ended and made a "representation" against his critical references to China.

Official sources confirmed that the ambassador had come to the Foreign Office, but no details of what transpired at the meeting were available, the agency added.

FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE INTERVIEWED ON DELHI TV

BK161510 Delhi ISI in English 1431 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] India has impressed upon the United States the futility of resuming arms supplies to Pakistan, reports PTI. The minister of external affairs, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said in a question and answer programme over Delhi doordarshan [television] on 16 March that "we have told our American friends" that Pakistan's problems were economic and internal. The United States wanted to do something to reassure Pakistan after the recent developments in the region, he said. Vajpayee pointed out that huge stocks of arms could not save the shah of Iran. "We should all learn a lesson from it." He added the proposal to supply U.S. arms to Pakistan was one of the two points of difference between India and the United States, the other being cooperation in the nuclear energy programme. Pakistan faced no threat from India, Vajpayee said, adding that India wanted a strong and stable Pakistan.

On the nuclear energy issue, the agreement on the supply of enriched uranium for Tarapur must be implemented by the United States. The law made by the U.S. Congress later could not apply to past agreements. India had unilaterally declared that it would not go in for nuclear weapons. Nuclear energy would be used only for peaceful purposes. India's relations with the United States had, however, improved and Prime Minister Morarji Desai and President Carter had established a personal relationship.

About Indo-Pakistan relations, Vajpayee agreed with a questioner that the process of improving relations had slowed down in some respects but this was not because India's desire for it had lessened or because Pakistan did not want to improve ties. The problem was that Pakistan's entire attention was currently focussed on domestic affairs.

Explaining the absence of any reference to Kampuchea in the joint communique issued on 15 March at the end of Kosygin's visit, Vajpayee said that both sides had stated their views on the subject. We agreed that so far there is disagreement on this question, hence there was no mention of it in the communique. Vajpayee pointed out that while the Soviet Union had recognized the new Kampuchean regime India had not done that, therefore no mention had been made in the joint communique. Vajpayee reiterated that the criteria for recognition of a regime was that it must be in effective control. Reports from Kampuchea indicated that fighting was still going on, the minister said, explaining the delay in recognition of the new regime. What had been said in the Indo-Soviet joint communique about the Indochina region was very important, Vajpayee said, adding "what is not said is even more important." He made it clear once again that the Chinese troops must withdraw from Vietnam unconditionally and totally.

Vajpayee was asked a question on the criticism of Kosygin's strong attacks on China in his public speeches in India. Vajpayee told the questioner that every country had its own way of looking at issues. While the Sino-Vietnamese conflict had taken place just now, even at a banquet during his (Vajpayee's) visit to Moscow last year China had been attacked, he pointed out. However, Vajpayee made it clear that India did not like to criticise third countries. At the same time, India respected the privilege of its guests to state their views in their own way "although we realise that in the international sphere it may create difficulties for us sometimes."

While speaking of the successful outcome of Kosygin's visit, Vajpayee told a questioner that there was no leaning towards the Soviet Union nor away from it. The external affairs minister acknowledged that the Chinese action in Vietnam and the manner in which China had made references to the 1962 attack on India in this context had dealt a blow to the process of normalisation between India and China. "Old memories have been revived which create hurdles in the path or normalisation," Vajpayee said, adding however that he hoped that when the situation became normal the normalisation process could be continued.

Vajpayee pointed out that the efforts at normalisation of relations with China were on for many years. The first concrete step had been taken when the previous government had decided to send an ambassador to Beijing. Later China had invited him. When the dates for his China visit were fixed, the Kampuchean question did not exist. No one could say with certainty before he left for Beijing that Sino-Vietnamese conflict would take place. Therefore he had decided to go there, marking the second concrete step in the normalisation process.

Vajpayee expressed the hope that after China withdraws from Vietnam and when it realises that it has no right to punish any country for doing something to a third country, the normalisation process might restart. A newsman recalled the invitation extended to the Chinese foreign minister Huang Hua to visit India and the Chinese invitation to Prime Minister Morarji Desai and asked when these visits could materialise. "Let us see what the future has in store," the minister replied.

A questioner said that China was behaving like a superpower in Asia and suggested that India move closer to other Asian nations. Affirming that India was already doing so, Vajpayee pointed out that during the last 2 years India had improved relations with ASEAN countries and also with other nations in the region. China, he said, was a big country from the geographic point of view and also because of its population. But all big nations had to understand that the world situation had changed and smaller nations could not be driven like cattle on the basis of armed or economic strength. Should India not lay stress on Asian security, Vajpayee was asked. "Asian security cannot be separated from the world security. If there was tension in the world it would effect Asia also," the minister replied.

PAKISTAN

REVIEW OF BHUTTO PETITION ENDS; DECISION RESERVED

BK171049 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 17 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The hearing of the review petition concluded in the Supreme Court today in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case, and judgment was reserved. The chief justice, Mr. Justice S. Anwarul Haw observed that the court would indicate the date for pronouncement of judgment in a couple of days. He said the judges would take at least 3 or 4 days to examine the submissions made by the defense as well as the prosecution on various points.

Earlier today, the court heard the defense counsel, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, speak on some major grounds mentioned in the review petition. He submitted that there was no dispute with the submission of the prosecution that the majority opinion is the judgment of the court and is binding. He said, however, he did not agree that the minority opinion is not a judgment. He submitted that it, too, was a judgment, but it did not have binding force. Similarly, he said he did not agree with the prosecution that the review petition must either be dismissed or allowed unanimously.

The defense counsel submitted that there were a number of inconsistencies in the judgment findings with regard to the weapons and ammunition, the evidence of approvers [accused turned witness for the prosecution] Masood Mahmud and Ghulam Hussain, and the recovery of empty cartridges. He dwelled at length on support of his contention that a petitioner who had not been present at the site was liable to lesser punishment.

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar asked the court that while using its discretion in the matter of the amount of the sentence, the introduction of Islamic laws in the country may be kept in mind since the conviction of the petitioner had been based on the testimony of approvers.

Deferral Petition Dismissed

BK191723 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Mr Justice Shapiur Rahman of the Lahore High Court today dismissed in the minor a constitutional petition filed by Malik Ghulam Jilani seeking the deferment of the execution of death sentence of Z.A. Bhutto while challenging the constitutional position of the resignation of Mr Fazel Elahi Chaudhry from the office of the president of Pakistan and the assumption of that office by General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The judge ruled that there was no merit in the petition.

HAQ REAFFIRMS PLEDGE TO HOLD ELECTIONS THIS YEAR

BK200334 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reaffirmed his pledge to hold the general elections this year and to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people.

In an interview with Mr (Smith Simpson), an American columnist, he repeated his preference for holding the local bodies' election first on a nonpolitical basis. He, however, said politicians were not yet agreeing to this. All the same, they were committed to the holding of elections. About democracy, he said he had his personal view, and in consultation with political leaders he was going to introduce a few minor changes in the constitution with a view to creating a democratic society which fitted with the (?view) of the Pakistani people. Democracy must have its grassroots. That was why he was laying more emphasis on a non-political base for elections to the local bodies first, so that first the foundation was laid there. The next step would be either a presidential form or a parliamentary form. It depended as to which could be made successful. The Western type of democracy, he said, was not suitable for Pakistan. The president said democracy had not been given a fair trial in Pakistan.

Referring to the takeover on the 5th of July 1977 by the army, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said there was no remedy available to the army but to intervene, remove the previous regime and prepare for elections. He outlined three objectives of the amendments he intended to make in the constitution. They are: a balance in the powers of an elected president and an elected prime minister, emphasis on the Political Parties Act to check floor crossing in legislatures, and some constitutional role for the armed forces. He said the armed forces were today the only institution which was stable and which was responsible for the safety, security and guarding the integrity of Pakistan.

Clarifying the contemplated constitutional role for the armed forces, he said if it was found that at a particular stage the political environment was like the one in July 1977, all politicians pulling in different directions, the president of the country, with the help of the armed forces, should be able to dissolve the National Assembly, safeguard himself, take the help of the armed forces to run the country for a few months, hold elections and hand over power again to the civilian politicians.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he thought some sort of an arrangement like this would bring in more stability. It would be much more democratic. It would be that type of democracy which suited the people of the country. He said that out of the 75 million people, 36 million were registered voters. Of them only 26 percent were educated. One could not expect illiterate masses to exercise their right of vote in a very sober manner. They were swayed by the politicians through fiery and emotional speeches before the elections and election campaigns in which money changed hands, feasts were held, people were brought in and taken out and there was a hell of a commotion for 2 or 3 months. Eventually somebody got some votes and was elected. They had to check all these malpractices. Let the people exercise their votes and let them select men who are aboveboard, he added.

Asked whether he anticipated holding a referendum on the 1973 constitution, the president replied in the negative. He said he had no doubt that the 1973 constitution was a workable one with some amendments. He said he had been empowered by the Supreme Court to make these amendments in consultation with the political parties in due course of time. He said he would not do this by his own authority, because he did not intend to stay much longer. So it was necessary to take the political parties into confidence.

Replying to a question, the president again said this was the election year. He thought the solution of the country's problems lay in having elected representatives and elections according to the democratic system. He said they were well on the road to democracy. This was absolutely true. In 30 years there had been one election and that, too, a rigged one. The only fair election, which was held in 1970, resulted in halving the country.

Further Remarks

BK200348 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Excerpts] The president told newsmen in Peshawar today that they were preparing a program to insure that the election campaign was sane and sober. He said he intended to send, at an appropriate time, consolidated plans to various political leaders about it. If necessary he will discuss it with them jointly or individually. He said he has been meeting leaders of the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] and those of other political parties and probing certain things. He said he had told the political leaders that they were free to build up the electioneering tempo as desired by them so long as it was peaceful and did not place the people in disarray. He said the process of accountability would take another month or so to complete.

Replying to a question about the visit of Mr Agha Shahi to Turkey, he said it was aimed at coordinating and increasing their activities following their withdrawal from CENTO. About the possibility of other countries joining the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development], he said the grouping must consist of those countries who were at a similar stage of economic development and of a comparable size and population.

About Pakistan rejoining the Commonwealth, he said they were working on certain arrangements and if there were possibilities of rejoining the Commonwealth, they would view it objectively.